

ANIMALS & MEN

The journal of The Centre for Fortean Zoology



**The Search for The Chupacabra;
Snakes with Legs; Giant Lizards in
Hampshire?; The Eastern Cougar
and much more.....**

Issue 16

£2.00

ANIMALS & MEN # 16

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

THE CURRENT CREW OF THECFZ MOTHERSHIP
(SOMETIMES KNOWN AS THE BOYS, GIRLS AND DOG OF
THE OLD BRIGADE) ARE:

Director: Jonathan Downes
Assistant Director: Graham Inglis
Gothic invoker of spiders / Assistant Editor: Richard Freeman
Toby the CFZ dog

Magazine cartoonist and Newsfile artwork: Mark North
Newsagent from Nowhere: Richard Muirhead
Associate founding editor: Jan Williams
Additional artwork: Lisa Allegri

CONSULTANTS

Consulting Editor and Cryptozoological Consultant:
Dr Bernard Heuvelmans
Zoological Consultant: Clinton Keeling
Cryptozoological Consultant: Dr Karl Shuker
Cetological and Palaeontological Consultant: Darren Naish
Zoological Consultant: Chris Moiser
Surrealchemist in Residence: Tony 'Doc' Shields
Computer Consultant: David Simons

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES - UK

Scotland: Tom Anderson
Surrey: Nick Smith
Yorkshire: Richard Freeman
Somerset: Dave McNally
West Midlands: Dr Karl Shuker
Kent: Neil Arnold
Sussex: Sally Parsons
Hampshire: Darren Naish
Leicestershire: Alistair Curzon
Cumbria: Brian Goodwin
S Wales & Salop: Jon Mattias
Tyne-side: Simon Elsdon

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES - OUTSIDE UK

Switzerland: Sunila Sen-Gupta
Spain: Alberto Lopez Aclia and Angel Morant Fores
Germany: Hermann Reichenbach and Wolfgang Schmidt
France: Francois de Sarre
Denmark: Lars Thomas and Erik Sorensen
Ireland: The Wizard of the Western World
Mexico: Dr R A Lara Palmeros
Canada: Ben Roesch

"In her abnormalities, nature reveals her secrets." (Goethe)

CONTENTS

3 Editorial

4 Newsfile

14 Newsfile Extra: Eastern Cougars

17 At Last: Snakes With Legs! by Darren Naish

20 Only Fools And Goatsuckers:

Expedition Report: the hunt for the Chupacabra, by
Jonathan Downes

24 The Quagga Project Update, by Chris Moiser

24 Bestiary: The Manticore, by Ade Dimmick

25 Conversation Pieces, by Richard Freeman

26 North of the Border, by Tom Anderson

27 Clinton's Cogitations, by Clinton Keeling

30 A Collection of Cat Curiosities,
by Richard Muirhead

32 Cryptoherps in Indiana, by Brad La Grange

35 Werewolves of London Again,
by Gypsy Sherred

37 What's Afoot? By Richard Freeman

38 The Tristate Bigfoot Conference,
by Chad Arment

39 Giant Lizards in the English Countryside?
by Darren Naish

40 Letters

43 Reviews: websites, magazines, books

46 CFZ Publications

47 Back issues; Methods of Payment.

ANIMALS & MEN

CFZ, 15 Holne Court, Exwick, Exeter,
Devon, EX4 2NA, England

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

For a 4-issue subscription:

£8 UK £9 EEC

£14 US/Canada/Oz/NZ (airmail)

£15 Rest of World.

Please see "Methods of Payment" on p47.

THE GREAT DAYS OF ZOOLOGY... ... ARE NOT DONE!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a somewhat belated issue sixteen of *Animals & Men*. The delay is simple. When we started The Centre for Fortean Zoology four or five years ago it was purely an organisation aimed at amassing information, most usually by research in museums, libraries and second-hand book shops.

Now we have made the quantum leap into hands-on research. This does mean, however, as we are still a non profit making organisation, that our publication schedule has suffered somewhat. Many apologies have to go out to everyone who ordered the 1998 yearbook at Christmas and didn't get it until April. Unfortunately (or fortunately - depending which viewpoint you take) we disappeared off to Mexico, Florida and Puerto Rico in January and we have been in the field (literally) hunting for the elusive 'Beast of Haldon' since almost a week after we arrived back in the UK.

Apologies also have to go out to everyone who was expecting this issue of *Animals & Men* to be the first printed in colour.

It would have been if it wasn't for the fact that a certain UFO magazine who was propping up our income to a ridiculous degree went bust soon after Christmas then we would now be the proud owners of a colour printer. All things being equal, we will be in colour as of issue seventeen (which SHOULD be out on time in July).

Two other big changes have taken place within the infrastructure of the CFZ within the last six months. Firstly we have now acquired a Pentium 166 computer, which is responsible for the far better type quality that you will notice with this issue and which has also helped us with our first forays into cyberspace.

As regular readers will notice this is the beginning of a new phase in *Animals & Men* - the ethos of the "Global Village" which made so much sense when we were added young hippies (well, at least Graham and I were), has now become a reality through the Internet. We are rapidly becoming part of that virtual community and if the CFZ is going to move successfully into the 21st Century then we have to embrace the new technology as fervently as possible.

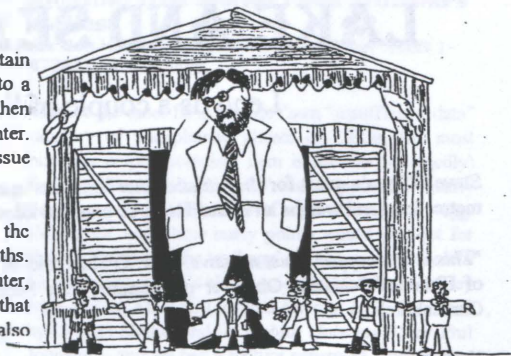
(Tharx once again, by the way to Darren Naish for another libellous piccy of me in a Cryptozoological iconographical pose)

The other change within the CFZ is the advent of Richard Freeman as a permanent member of the CFZ faculty. He has been a mate of ours for years and we share similar tastes in music, pseudo science, and lifestyle. He is actually moving down to CFZ Mansions in June and we're gonna have FUN FUN FUN until "Tony" takes the "funding" away.....

Slainte

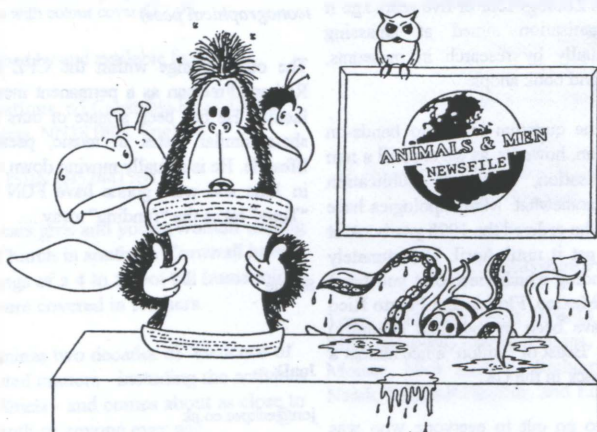
JonD

jon@eclipse.co.uk



NEWSFILE

Compiled and collated by **Graham Inglis, Richard Freeman and The Editor**



LAKE AND SEA MONSTERS

Lend us a couple of Squid 'till payday...

Steve O'Shea's quest for *Architeuthis dux* continues apace. The latest specimen that he has secured is ten metres long and weighs an incredible three hundred kilos.

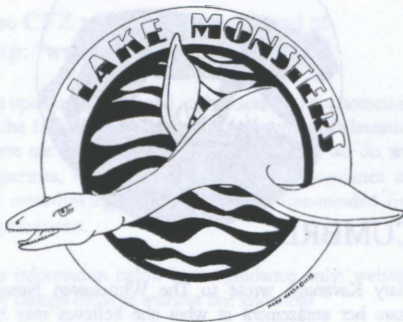
"This is a whopper - just massive," Mr. O'Shea said of the female squid recently caught by the Ministry of Fisheries Scientific Observer programme, near Mernoo Bank, about 200km off the East Coast of Christchurch.

He has four giant squid in his collection at Niwa's great point lab and hopes to prove that the creatures lives for only two years and are coming to New Zealand water to breed and die. "There is little known about them because they live so deep. They are one of the last mysteries of the water," He said. "We don't even know how many species there are." If his theory is correct, he would expect more giant squid

to be spotted or caught in the next few months and then not be seen again for two years. O'Shea is dissecting and preserving the squid with the help of Professor Chung-Cheng Lu, a visiting expert from the Zoology Department in the National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan. *"The Bay of Plenty Times"*, New Zealand 13/2/98.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information posted on the Internet a few days later suggested that O'Shea had secured yet another specimen of this elusive cephalopod. Another earnest seeker after cephalopodical (if that is the word) truth is Dr Clyde Roper who was featured in the January issue of *National Geographic* magazine (page 91) in a photo of him examining a beached sperm whale carcass in New Zealand. The caption for that photo stated:

"A sperm whale carcass in New Zealand shows signs of a struggle - sucker marks - leading marine biologists Clyde Roper and Malcolm Clarke to suspect a giant squid. Up to 60 feet long, it is a mystery mollusc, having never been seen alive in its deep sea lair. Roper hopes to change all that by lowering a robotic camera into a 3,000-foot canyon just off shore of this New Zealand beach."



Another fine Ness.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: Those jolly nice chaps at the Copyright Liberation Front have been

unable to locate a copy of this latest Nessie pic in a format that they are able to half-inch so we therefore have restricted ourselves to quoting the Reuters report in full...

INVERNESS, Scotland (Reuters) - An amateur photographer who snapped mysterious happenings in Scotland's Loch Ness has puzzled experts and led to renewed speculation about the existence of the monster said to live in the lake. Scottish pet food salesman Richard

White noticed something strange in the loch as he drove along its eastern bank and realized it could be the elusive "Nessie."

"I always carry a camera in my van in case of a road accident," the former soldier told a Scottish news agency on Monday. *"I was on my way to Foyers, a small village above the loch, as part of a regular sales run, when I noticed an unusual disturbance halfway across the loch toward Urquhart Castle on the opposite bank. I stopped to take a look and remembered I had the camera, so I got it out and just started reeling off the photos,"* he said.

White, 53, has been awarded 500 pounds (\$825) by a firm of British bookmakers which offers a prize for the best "Nessie" image of the year. Sightings of the mysterious monster, often described as having a long neck and a large body like a brontosaurus, have been reported since the 15th century.

Around two million tourists flock to the murky loch each year hoping to get a glimpse of the beast.

"This is a remarkable sequence, some of the best 'Nessie' photos that I have ever seen," said Gary Campbell, president of the Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club. White and Campbell did not want to go public until the pictures had been analyzed by scientists using computer enhancement techniques. Campbell said the fact that experts had been unable to decide exactly what the pictures showed only added to the mystery of the Loch Ness monster.

"With so many of the photos taken of 'something' in Loch turning out to be a boat's wake or some other

everyday object, it is great to have a real mystery on our hands," he said. In February last year, a Scottish auxiliary coast guard officer said he had found the monster's secret lair on the bottom of the 23-mile (37-km) long loch.

Song of Norway

"An international team of experts plans to search a Norwegian lake with the latest technology in August in the hopes of putting an end to a 250-year-old legend about a sea serpent, the expedition head said on Wednesday. Jan-Ove Sundberg, a Swedish freelance journalist who has been fascinated by the legend for more than 25 years and who participated in a previous unsuccessful search in

1977, does not believe the legend — he believes the "beast" could be a new large eel species. A team of zoologists from Norway, Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Italy and Russia will take part in the 17-day search, financed by the Seljord municipality in the Telemark region of southern Norway. The participants are all specialists in searching for unknown species, and have studied similar phenomena in their respective countries, including the famed Loch Ness Monster in Scotland, the Champ in the U.S., Ogopogo in Canada and Vorota in Russia.

Sundberg believes previous expeditions may have been unsuccessful because of improper equipment.

"The animal in the Seljord Lake may have been affected (by the equipment) and taken off," he said. But zoologist Torfinn Oermen at Oslo's Zoological Museum is sceptical about the search, and believes the chances of finding an undiscovered species in the cold lakes of the Nordic region are very small. Oermen noted that there are eels measuring up to 10 feet in oceans, "but there are no eels that big in the cold lakes up here in the north," he said.

And, he added, "the Seljord Lake is too far from the ocean for a sea animal to have remained there since the ice age." Oermen believes the explanation

behind the sea serpent legend could be similar to a case cleared up at the Suldal Lake in the neighbouring Rogaland region back in 1893, where witnesses claimed to have seen a large, black, smelly monster rise from the water, and then descend never to be seen again. According to Oermen, a sawmill was located next to the lake." (UPI)

Editor's Note: I have to admit that I fail to see what a sawmill has to do with anything, but that is the way of things. There is a possibility that three of the CFZ posse will be accompanying this expedition but this has yet to be confirmed.

MYSTERY CATS



CUMBRIA

Mary Kavanagh wrote to The Whitehaven News to share her amazement at what she believes may have been a leopard or puma. A passenger on a train travelling through Silecroft, near Millom, was shocked to see what she describes as "a large car-like animal" prowling through a field.

Radio 4 ran a news item on the "Today" programme on Friday morning where some other wildlife 'expert' [whose name I forget] advised that there were various big cats roaming about the UK, but humans had nothing to fear from these animals.

His theory was that after the passing of the Dangerous Wild Animals act in 1976, some owners set their large cats free rather than register them. These animals have since bred and retreated to rural areas of the UK. They survive by preying on livestock, hence disembowelled sheep etc. But they are far more likely to run away than attack any of us. According to the Fortean Times one was even frightened off by a domestic cat whose territory it had wandered into...

Given that big cats can easily survive in far more inhospitable areas such as the cold regions of the former Soviet union, I find no reason to disbelieve this explanation. They are rarely seen, though, as such cats are elusive. Try finding a pet cat when it does not want to be found.

Some sceptics say that some 'alien big cats' are only large domestic cats - maybe [some breeds can indeed get to 3-4 feet long], but a domestic cat is only a domesticated Asian/African jungle cat, and can interbreed with many of the smaller wild cat species such as the above..

In the words of an old lady interviewed by journals after a sighting: "If it is a domestic cat, I wouldn't care to have it sat in front of my fireplace".

Not surprising - perhaps on her pension she would never have been able to afford that much Whiskas

Alex"

BALMORAL, SCOTLAND

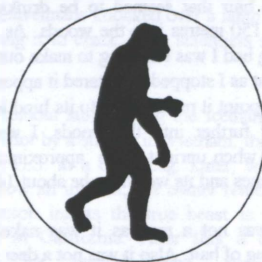
A gamekeeper gunning for the Beast of Balmoral killed the local church minister's tortoiseshell cat, police believe. A spokesman for the Invercauld Estate said that the gamekeeper had been reprimanded, and told to study the difference between domestic and feral cats. Daily Mail 15/12/97

MEXICO

Ironically, at the same time as the CFZ posse and a Channel 4 film crew were in Mexico investigating chupacabra reports there was also an incident involving an out of place lion cub which was found hiding under a car in one of Mexico City's roughest neighborhoods. It was captured with lassos and taken to a zoo by firemen who said. "We took it to a circus but they said they didn't have any lions, so we took it to the Chapultepec Zoo instead."

The 6-month-old female lion was found by traffic reporters working for a Mexico City radio station in the asphalt jungle of Doctores, one of the capital's most crime-ridden areas early on Tuesday February 3, 1998. "I hope it eats some of the criminals," said a caller to the radio station, Radio Rojo, when the escapee was reported. New York Daily News February 4, 1998

BHM



The Frogman Cometh.

Martin Pickersgill, the intrepid frog hunter who abandoned his girlfriend in order to walk across Africa in search of reed frogs (see A&M 14 and 15) has come up with the best scam we have heard of yet. He is auctioning off the right to name the eight previously unknown species of frog discovered by him to fund an expedition to Africa in search of the tokoloshe, a species of hominid he glimpsed as a 15 year old in Africa. The tokoloshe is said to be 3 - 4 ft tall &

possessed of the strength of 10 men. It is said to be a creature of Bantu folklore. *The Observer* 1.3.98

Lakeland BHM..

Brian Goodwin has really come into his own this issue as our intrepid Cumbrian correspondent. He sent us this reader's letter to 'The Whitehaven News':

Sir - Following your story that you ran in The News on February 19th, 1998, I would like to recount the tale of a sighting made by myself some weeks ago.

While walking my dog on the evening of Sunday, January 25th on the road out of Beckermert towards the A595, I passed Nursery Woods. The time was approximately 16.45. It was starting to get dark so my visibility was not that good, but as I walked past the woods I heard the snapping of branches.

Thinking it was a deer or another animal, I stopped to try and see what it was. Looking through the trees I noticed a large creature covered in a sort of ginger brown hair that seemed to be drinking from a pond about 150 metres into the woods. As the lighting was getting bad I was straining to make out what the animal was but as I stopped and stared it appeared to see me, at which point it reared up onto its hind legs and made off slowly further into the woods. I would estimate its height when upright to be approximately six feet and six inches and its weight to be about 14 stone.

This was not a man as it was naked except for its covering of hair. Also it was not a deer as it made off on its hind legs.

After the sighting I rushed to my home in Beckermert and told my wife what I had witnessed. Let me assure you, this is not a hoax. I was going to report the incident to the police but my wife persuaded me not to for fear of ridicule. I have lived in Beckermert for seven years and walk past these woods almost every day and have never witnessed anything like it before or since.

Name and address withheld by agreement. Source - *'The Whitehaven News'* 5th March

EDITOR'S NOTE: This sighting only goes to underline my suggestion above that the sighting reported in the same newspaper on the 19th February and included in this Newsfile under 'Mystery Cats', should possibly be redefined as a putative BHM zooform phenomenon.

NEW

AND

REDISCOVERED



Nepalese Monkey Business

Dr. Mukesh Kumar Chalise, a Primatologist and Associate Professor of Biology at Kathmandu University claims that he has "traced a new monkey group, little known to the scientific literature, in the Makalu-Barun area in the eastern hills of the Kingdom of Nepal". He claims that they are very different to

other animals known from the region. (*EnviroLink Network*)

Beetle Revival

A "Maid of Kent" 2.5 cm staphylinidae beetle (*Emus hirtus*), presumed extinct for decades, has reappeared: a specimen was found in 1997 in a public lavatory. (*Sunday Telegraph* 9/11/97 via *Exotic Zoology*)

Wainscott Moth

A moth, *Sedina buettneri*, known as Blair's Wainscott, has reappeared in Dorset, probably having crossed from the continent. It was declared extinct in Britain in 1950. - *Daily Telegraph* 27/12/97.

Much play was made in the papers of this revival as its extinction followed the defeat of Atlee's Labour administration and its return is a few months after Tony Blair's "New Labour" party won power. A spokesman welcomed the news but conceded that there'd be political repercussions if a road gets built through its habitat.

Siberian Tiger

BEIJING (AP) — United Nations researchers recently found traces of as many as six Siberian tigers — a species on the verge of extinction — in northeast China's Changbai Mountains.

They also found signs of wild leopards, another endangered species, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday.

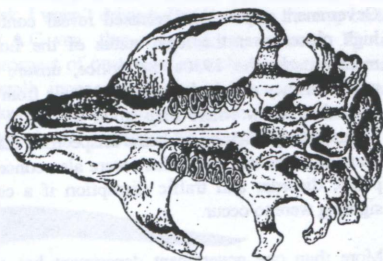
The experts from China, Russia and the United States have been to Russia and plan to travel to North Korea to find out how many Siberian tigers remain in the wild and how to protect them, Xinhua said.

It said the group did not actually see the tigers, but found footprints, droppings and discarded bones of their prey.

Threatened by destruction of their habitat and poaching, only 300 Siberian tigers are believed to survive in the wild, most of them in Russia.

Three other subspecies of tiger — Bengal, Indochinese, Sumatran and Siberian — are also endangered and the South China tiger is close to extinction.

OTHER STORIES



BUT IS IT ART?

BUFFALO, N.Y., Jan. 6 (UPI) -- The slogan for a 9,000-pound Asian elephant at the Buffalo Zoo could be "Will Paint for Food." Fourteen-year-old Surapa (SUHR-rah-pah) has caused a sensation in the zoo's gift shop, where the pachyderm has sold more than 60 paintings for \$25 each. Elephant keeper (and art instructor) Daryl Hoffman told United Press International that he stumbled on to painting looking for something for the zoo's three elephants to do on winter afternoons. The lumbering mammals apparently get bored during the long Buffalo winters just like people do, so Hoffman taught them how to paint. He said one of his beasts, Jyothi (JOH-dee), took no interest, and Sheba, a former circus elephant, dabbles. But Surapa has become a star, producing works that some have compared to abstracts hanging in Buffalo's Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

Hoffman says after a few missteps, his charges caught on quickly. He said: *"Since the elephants were used to eating anything handed to them, they ate the first brushes, but they soon caught on that if they applied the paint to canvases, they would get fruit."* Hoffman says the paintings are so successful that zoo officials want to paint t-shirts as well.

Just don't expect any still-lives.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NESSIE?

Government papers just released reveal confusion in high places over the legal status of the Loch Ness monster. In the 1930s the police, unsure of their powers if they ever had to protect Nessie from hunters, wanted to know where they stood legally. It seems a hunting party planned (in some unspecified manner) to tranquilise the monster. There were also concerns over public disorder and traffic disruption if a confirmed sighting were to occur.

More than one government department has a say in matters relating to fish, but they declined to act, on the not unreasonable grounds that there was no evidence that Nessie is a fish.

In response to one inquiry about Nessie, a government official said, "I think this letter has been in every other department than Monty Python's Ministry of Funny Walks - which might be the best place for it..."

The Guardian ; The Daily Mail 1/1/98

FALLING FROGS (LITERALLY)

Editor's Note: OK I admit it - It ain't my pun - It comes, like this story, from the pen of the irrepressible Daev Walsh:

Concern at low frog numbers in Irish midlands

Laois, Offaly and Westmeath have recorded low numbers in the first Irish Frog Survey which was carried out because of growing concern about the future

of the creature in Ireland. The survey, organised by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC), involved more than 900 schoolchildren from every county in Ireland, and was intended as the first comprehensive overview of the spread of the amphibian over the country.

The survey found that frogs reproduce in every county in the Republic but low returns from Laois, Offaly and Westmeath have posed questions for the organisers. Twelve counties returned fewer than 10 records and according to Dr Peter Foss, chairman of the IPCC, this may indicate a low density of frogs in the counties involved. *"Alternatively, it may indicate a low density of human population, low school cover, unsuitable habitats or counties with extensive areas under intensive agriculture,"* he said.

"This certainly calls for more research because we would have expected more reports, especially from bog pools in the Midlands."

He said 50 per cent of reports located frogs in man-made ponds and this was a helpful indication at a time when it appeared the frog is under threat.

"Modern farming practices destroy frog habitats and the use of pesticides and chemicals kills them. They are a wonderful indicator of a clean environment," said Dr Foss.

The survey had most returns from counties Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Waterford and Limerick. Dr Foss said it was estimated that 7 per cent of frog spawn located during the survey survived to become juvenile frogs.

He said the IPCC received telephone calls from distressed house owners claiming that large numbers of frogs were trying to invade their homes.

He said this was because the common frog goes to the same pond to breed every year and always follows the same path to that pond. *"If a house is built in the middle of their path they will try to go through rather than go around it,"* he said.

Who's afraid of the big bad.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following notice was posted on an Animals IRC Newsgroup on the Internet on December 17th 1997...

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for injuring a gray wolf on December 13 on Birch Lake near Babbitt, Minnesota in eastern St. Louis County. Because of the extent of its injuries, the wolf was later destroyed.

After receiving a call from a local resident, a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer found the critically injured wolf on Birch Lake. Snowmobile tracks on the lake surface indicated the animal had been struck twice by snowmobiles. Although still able to run after the initial strike, upon being struck a second time the animal suffered two broken legs and apparent internal injuries. After discovering the condition of the animal, the Conservation Officer was forced to destroy it. No arrests have been made in the case.

Because of their listing on the federal threatened species list, gray wolves are protected under the Endangered Species Act. The fine for "taking" (killing, harming or harassing) a threatened species such as the gray wolf within the United States is \$25,000 and/or six months in federal prison. Protecting endangered and threatened species and restoring them to a secure status in the wild is the primary objective of the FWS endangered species program.

This illegal killing follows a related incident in Marshall County during the firearms deer season, when a radio-collared wolf was shot. The Marshall County wolf had been part of a research program conducted by biologists at the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge near Middle River, Minnesota.

Anyone having information pertaining to these incidents should contact a FWS Special Agent at (218) 720-5357 or Turn In Poachers (TIP) at (800) 652-9093. Callers may remain anonymous.

Who's grooming the badgers ready for the Badger parade?

Badgers enjoy protection as they raise the dead. Badgers who have taken up residence in one of Ireland's oldest graveyards are exhuming the bones of the dead and causing extreme distress to relatives. But it emerged yesterday that the relatives of those buried at the Yew Tree graveyard near Monasterevan, Co Kildare, cannot legally interfere with the sett, which is protected by law. The cemetery, which is on the site of the old monastery founded by St Evan in 570 AD, is off the main Monasterevan/Bracknagh road and local people still bury their dead there. The last funeral to the cemetery was over a year ago but many local people own graves there which are being systematically dug up by the badgers.

Each night a fresh haul of human bone is taken to the surface. This, according to Richard O'Rourke, who lives in Monasterevan, has been going on for several years. He became aware of the problem when he brought a friend to visit a grave there and they found human bones littering the graveyard.

"It was a horrible sight. I was very shocked and my friend was very disturbed at what we had seen," he said. Mr O'Rourke said he subsequently learned that a state of "war" has existed between local people and the badgers for several years. *"There is an annual Mass held there and the locals have been trying to block up the holes to drive the badgers away but they have not succeeded,"* he said. It was extremely distressing to local people to see the bones of their ancestors being brought to the surface of the graveyard by wild animals, he added. Yesterday, Ms Angela Tinney of Badgerwatch, an organisation dedicated to the preservation of the badger, appealed to the people of the locality not to disturb the sett until May next. She said the badgers are currently breeding and if they were allowed stay until May she would get a licence from Dúchas, the Heritage Department, and move the badgers on. *"People should know that badgers are a protected species and they or their habitat cannot be touched without a licence. This has happened before, in Co Mayo, and it was dealt with,"* she said.

A spokesman for Dúchas said that this was a highly unusual case; the badgers are protected under the 1976 Wildlife Act but could be moved under Section 34 of the Act under licence. *The Irish Times* Thursday, February 12, 1998

Eel meat again

"Dead" giant eel attacks British fishmonger

LONDON (March 24, 1998 Reuters News Service) - Fishmonger John Hogg will never feel quite the same about dead fish after facing by a gigantic, enraged conger eel that apparently rose from the grave. Hogg had been quietly sorting through the boxes of catch early last Friday when the enormous, shark-like creature reared up, snapping its razor-like teeth inches from the terrified fishmonger's face. "For a moment I thought I was a goner. It was so big and powerful," said Hogg, who first tried to battle the monster with a broom. But he soon realized he had no hope of overpowering the 6-foot eel, which weighed about 150 pounds and abandoned his shop for 11 hours until he was quite sure it was dead. "By the end of the day it will all be cut up and sold. It's like a bony cod steak but it's an acquired taste, and I'll be trying some of this one," said Hogg.

Whoa...a real boa?

EDITOR'S NOTE: OK It's another steal from Daev Walsh but his puns are eminently stealable...

In A&M15 we printed a story of an incredible monster in Peru. In his 'Cogitations' elsewhere during this issue Glin Keeling heaps scorn upon the story. This, however, appears to be another account of the same event, and this time one which appears to have a little more credibility...

LIMA - Luis Iluma was playing soccer in a village deep in Peru's Amazon jungle on Tuesday when he saw a black boa constrictor the size of two passenger buses

slither by. According to Nuevo Tacna inhabitants, a 130-foot long serpent with a diameter of about 15 feet crashed through the jungle undergrowth, felling trees and forging a ditch wide enough to drive a tractor through." (Reuters).

Editor's Note: Another Reuters Report a few days later, courtesy of Daev Walsh reads:

..... a 'black boa constrictor the size of two passenger buses slithered by the Peruvian village of Nuevo Tacna, deep in the Amazonian jungle. This creature was allegedly 40 metres long and about five metres in diameter, felled trees, and left 'a ditch wide enough to drive a tractor through'. There were five witnesses, and three hundred people felt its passing as it made for the river Napo. The reports were treated with scepticism by Peru's national radio stations, and it was suggested that heavy machinery was misidentified. This idea was dropped when the local authorities pointed out that the jungle in the area was far too dense for such mechanical goings on. The mayor of Mainas 170 miles (270 km) from Lima, Jorge Chavez reckons that 'there really is something to the villagers' versions' of the story.

Interjection from Richard Freeman (Herpetologist of this Parish): Boa constrictors seldom exceed ten feet in length and the record is 18.5 feet. The anaconda, the largest new world constrictor, reaches a length of 23 feet but both are far short of the 130 feet of snake cited by Reuters. A snake of this incredible size would be as helpless on land as a beached whale. This account is therefore either a downright hoax, a monstrous (if you will excuse the pun) exaggeration, or something zoomorphic in nature.

THE "GREY" MENACE (...OK we've been writing for UFO mags for too long)

The red squirrel is believed to have become extinct in one of its last remaining strongholds in England. Wildlife trusts say there have been no reliable sightings of the red around Cannock Chase, in the Midlands, since 1994. Simple competition for food between it and the American grey, rather than direct aggression, is thought to be the cause. "Reds only" zones in Northern

England have been declared, where land managers are encouraged to trap greys who infiltrate the area. *Daily Telegraph* 7/1/98

A member of the House of Lords, Lord Inglewood, has called on the UK government to save the red squirrel. He suggested roadside warnings as one way of protecting the red. *BBC Ceefax* 26/3/98. (*What's squirrel language for "greys keep out", one wonders.*)

TO WIT TO WOO....

Editor's confession: None of my puns are original this ish - that one was from Tony Shiels c.1978....

A mysterious white owl was credited with helping save an Arkansas girl's life after she became lost in canyon country. She was prevented from falling asleep (and thus probably dying of exposure) by her pet dog, Scotty, which kept barking at the owl. A police officer said, "I don't know of any white owls in the county. That's some kind of sign." *Daily Telegraph* 30/12/97

BIRD STORIES

ONE FOR SORROW...

The magpie, long regarded as responsible for the fall in numbers of small songbirds such as the bullfinch and tree sparrow, has been cleared of blame.

Although magpies do feed on other birds' eggs and chicks, researchers now say the decline is probably due to herbicides, which have almost eliminated the seed-bearing weeds that fed small birds. In some areas, small birds were found to be doing well, despite rising magpie numbers. *Daily Telegraph* 16/12/97

WOT A LARK!

The woodlark is making a comeback in east England, helped by mild winters, replanted woodlands and managed heath and scrubland. *Daily Telegraph* 14/2/98

KIWI

The brown kiwi - a symbol of new Zealand - is heading for extinction, perhaps in 15 years: recorded numbers have more than halved, to 30,000, since 1982. Predators and loss of habitat are cited as reasons. *Daily Mail* 1/1/98

PALAEOBIOLOGY

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SANDS OF TIME

What are believed to be the world's oldest animal droppings have been found on Islay, a Scottish island, in 600 million-year-old rock. Scientists thought the most advanced creatures at that time were jellyfish, but the curved chain of droppings indicates an animal with a mouth and gut. *Daily Telegraph* 11/12/97

DINOSAURS "CRACKED TAILS LIKE WHIPS"

Computer recreations suggest that male sauropods may have been able to whisk their 9 metre tails fast enough to create a miniature sonic boom - the same effect as that of cracking a whip. This effect could have been used to attract mates or to intimidate rivals.

Newsfile Correspondents

Daev Walsh, Brian Goodwin, The Cryptic Clipper, CZOneList

Please continue to send your news items, either to the Editorial address or by e-mail to gj@eclipse.co.uk

NEWSFILE EXTRA: EASTERN COUGARS

assembled from various sources by The Editor

The Eastern Cougar - a subspecies of *felis concolor* found, naturally enough, in the eastern parts of the United States of America has long been presumed extinct by mainstream zoologists. Reports have proliferated in recent years, however, and it seems certain that pumas do indeed inhabit places where zoological orthodoxy says that they shouldn't. Unlike the case in Britain where any pumas are certainly either introduced specimens or their descendants the situation in the eastern states of the USA is more problematical.

It seems highly likely that, as has undoubtedly been the case in the UK, captive pumas have escaped (or been deliberately introduced) into the wild. However, as there is still the possibility that remnants of the original population have survived until the present day then these sightings do, indeed, present a tantalising cryptozoological mystery.

The irony, however, is that even if there are still a few Eastern Pumas around, they have probably been pushed into extinction by genetic dilution from introduced specimens belonging to other subspecies.

Here is a round up of recent news items on the subject:

The Washington Post of 23rd February 1998 carried the following article:

"Cougars, Believed Extinct, May Prowl Park

Wildlife biologists in Shenandoah National Park are using road kill to try to verify whether cougars have returned to the park.

The big cats, also known as mountain lions, are officially listed as extinct in the eastern United States. But Jim Atkinson, a wildlife biologist for the park, and several of his colleagues are convinced they have returned, and they hope to prove it with heat-sensitive cameras set up at six sites in the park.

"It's only a matter of time," Atkinson said recently while baiting one of the sights. "If cougars are present on the mountain—and we really have no doubt that they are—then I think we'll eventually capture one on film."

Park officials have set six bait sites, but have gotten mostly pictures of bears, bobcats and smaller critters feasting.

One dark, grainy photo showed a large, catlike animal with a tawny coat and round head. But the animal's tail, which on a cougar would be two-thirds the length of its body, was lost in the shadows, so the photo is inconclusive. The last known native cougar was killed in Virginia in 1882 in Washington County".

Shenandoah National Park is in Iowa, but putative eastern cougars were also turning up in Tennessee according to an undated news item (taken I think from Associated Press) which was recently posted on the Internet:

CHATTANOOGA -- A cougar and a cub are wandering the New Hope community of Marion County.

Sightings began three months ago. Biologists have studied plaster casts of paw prints and estimate the cougar's weight at 100 pounds.

"In all probability, it's a South American or Western cougar that someone's had in captivity," said Mike Bailey of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

"She was probably bred before she was released and they didn't know she was pregnant. And the cat either escaped or it was illegally dumped."

There is a slight possibility the cat is an Eastern cougar, one of the rarest animals in North America. Until the Marion County cats are identified, they are under the protection of the Endangered Species Act, Bailey said.

"The possibility of it being an Eastern cougar is very remote, but we do know that we had a small population of Eastern cougars living in the Smoky Mountains about 20 years ago," he said.

"About that period of time, we had one that was killed in Bledsoe County."

Bailey said there was no reason for New Hope residents to panic. "There's no need to go out and lock up the cows," he said.

An internet-friend of mine with whom I correspond about UFO related animal mutilations sent me the following e-mail in mid-March. We had been chatting on-line the night before about of forthcoming hunt for "The Beast of Haldon" (for the full story see next issue), and she thought that I might be interested in this snippet of information:

Hi Jon,

Just thought you might be interested, one of the regulars in the #ufo room is from a small town near Topeka, Kansas. He was telling me tonight there have been reports of "cougars" around the Topeka area also. Strange...may not mean anything but just thought I'd pass that little tid bit of info along. Makes me wonder why cougars? Would their senses be clueing them into impending earth changes coming so they are relocating to "safe zones"? Or could there be a special attribute unique to the large cats that would from an alien/ufo point of view make them the more desirable animal to put implants in and track as opposed to a deer or squirrel that might be native to the area. Worth taking a chance in upsetting the ecological balance in an area to introduce these animals onto unfamiliar ground? Oh well may not mean a thing, but just wanted to pass it along.

Have a wonderful day!
Arleen

Proving that there is indeed no such thing as a coincidence, within days, veteran US fortran Loren Coleman got in on the Eastern Puma act when he posted these three news reports on The Internet:

PEOPLE PONDER COUGAR ORIGINS - MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE IN NEW ENGLAND, BUT EXPERTS DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE NATIVE, WANDERERS OR MAYBE LOST PETS.

Published on Wednesday, April 24, 1996
Portland (Maine) Press Herald
Byline: Associated Press

When three mountain lions padded single-file across a snow-covered Vermont lake in 1994, they left behind more than paw prints, droppings and the terrified Craftsbury resident who saw them. The cougars, the first definitely seen in Vermont in more than a century, also raised a question that is being repeated among wildlife specialists along the East Coast.

"Where did they come from? We still don't know," state biologist Cedric Alexander said Tuesday. Alexander has reviewed more than 100 cougar sightings in Vermont since 1991, deeming about 15 percent of them credible.

From Maine to Georgia, people are reporting encounters with cougars, despite scientists' belief that the last of the mountain lions native to the region were wiped out between 50 and 100 years ago. The two notions are not incompatible. Wildlife authorities do not deny the cats, also known as pumas or catamounts, are out there. But they say the animals are either

escaped pets or have wandered from their habitat west of the Mississippi River.

"I would bank my reputation that we don't have a viable population," Ken Elowe of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife told The Boston Globe. "If we did, every place where deer congregate you would find a cougar."

A federal lab confirmed that fur collected last year in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, came from a cougar; high school students have compiled 100 credible sightings in Maine over the last 20 years.

Some of the East Coast sightings can be attributed to exaggeration. One reported cougar found dead in Vermont last month was actually a bobcat; another in Delaware turned out to be a dog.

But the reports in the East coincide with cat trouble in the West, where the thousands of mountain lions that roam California are increasingly encroaching on suburban life. In California, two joggers were killed by cougars in 1994, the first such deaths there since the turn of the century.

Some say they believe the cougars have strayed here, although the nearest known habitat is Minnesota. Others say there have always been native mountain lions that survive deep in the woods. The distinction may be important to biologists. But it is moot to Nancy Davis of Stetson, Maine. Davis' chowchow, Grizzly, was clawed to death in January. State officials say a common bobcat was the culprit. Davis, who says she saw 4-inch-wide pawprints in the snow, is sure a much larger cougar is to blame.

The cat struck quickly and fiercely, yanking the 70-pound dog from the wall to which his leash was bolted and dragging him easily more than 100 feet.

"He was still attached to the end of his run. But whatever it was dragged him down to the side of the road," she said. "He didn't last the night."

Davis wants the state to admit that a cougar killed her dog. That way, she said, residents will know that they should take precautions with their children and pets.

"There's no doubt in my mind, they are here," she said.

Loren's second contribution to the great Eastern Puma debate concerned a batch of 1995 sightings.....

SIGHTINGS KEEP ALIVE TALK THAT COUGAR PROWLS AT CAPE

REPORTS OF A MOUNTAIN LION IN TOWN ARE UNCONFIRMED, BUT SOME RESIDENTS SAY THEY KNOW WHAT THEY SAW.

Published on Wednesday, January 15, 1997
Portland (Maine) Press Herald
Byline: By Grace F. Murphy Staff Writer

Sleepy Hollow has the headless horseman. Loch Ness may have a monster. Does Cape Elizabeth have mountain lions?

The state says no, and residents remain split over whether a 1995 sighting means the big cats reside in Maine's most affluent town. But mountain lions live, at least in spirit, at the lunch counter at Cape Variety, in conversations at Town Hall and in the thoughts of those who walk or live in the southern end of town.

Clint Hat of Eastman Road has no doubt that the town harbors at least one mountain lion. He says he saw it on his lawn this spring. "After it went through the woods I got on the lawnmower to ride back up to the house. The blades were still turning and if you'd seen the path, I was going back and forth like I was drunk, I was so excited," Hat said. In March 1995, Rosemary Townsend saw what she thought was a lion during a walk in an undeveloped area in the southern part of the town. State game wardens investigated her report, and found hairs that were tested and proved to be like those found on a mountain lion.

None of that convinces residents like Norman Bethel, a retiree who pondered the question at Cape Variety. "I'm not saying there can't be some in the state passing through. I think 90 percent of the sightings are just that. But one on Cape Elizabeth? I don't believe it. If it were here, it's only temporary and there'd be tracks," Bethel said. The lions, also known as cougars, pumas and panthers, are common in Montana, Idaho, Colorado and the Pacific Northwest. They were believed to have been eliminated from Maine in the 1930s, but there have been many sightings across the state since then - all unconfirmed. The animals, which are bigger and have longer tails than bobcats and lynxes, feed on game such as rabbit and deer, which are plentiful in Cape Elizabeth.

State biologists doubt there are mountain lions in Maine, because a 1994 survey of northern Maine counties found no evidence of any. They say that if there was a population in the state, there would be

evidence such as tracks, droppings, carcasses or skeletons.

Ken Elowe, director of the Wildlife Division for the state Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, said the division hasn't yet been able to verify sightings.

"We're not saying they didn't see what they said they saw. We just can't verify that they did see a mountain lion," he said. Bob Leeman, Cape Elizabeth's animal control officer and Hat's brother-in-law, said Hat's was the last reported sighting in town. "The state, as far as they're concerned, they still don't recognize (the mountain lion) as existing because nobody has really sighted it and gotten proof other than those hairs" from the animal that Townsend saw, Leeman said.

At the time of Townsend's sighting, state officials speculated that the hairs came from someone's pet mountain lion. There are several registered as pets in the state, but Leeman said there is none registered in Cape Elizabeth. John Costa, a hunter for 20 years, was bow hunting in the woods of southern Cape Elizabeth in the fall of 1995 when he saw a deer streak across a distant field, with a smaller animal running close behind. "At first I thought it was a fawn running with the doe . . . Then I thought it was a coyote taking a deer. But a coyote tends to be black and gray. This thing looked more tan and had a large tail." Costa found no tracks, but in the same area found a half-eaten carcass, three to four days old. The deer's bones were broken, a possible result of a mountain lion's powerful attack, he said. Lester Jordan said he believes Cape Elizabeth is home to mountain lions.

Jordan, a farmer, said he found what he considered to be cougar tracks in his yard in the 1980s, but none since then. He said the state should just admit that some live in Cape Elizabeth. "I have no idea why they'd not admit it," Jordan said. Some residents don't need to see evidence of the big cats to believe they live here. Tom Eismeier, principal of Pond Cove Elementary School, said he was a skeptic until a friend from Vermont explained why he thinks the animals live in that state, and how they could survive on the food supply available in Cape Elizabeth.

"He's an outdoorsman and believes it to be true, and I'm taking his word for it," Eismeier said. Whether his students believe, Eismeier isn't sure. Sarah Dow, a student at Cape Elizabeth High School, said she doesn't believe cougars live in her town, or that it's an issue for her classmates.

Karen Pride, who is a Brownie leader with Girl Scouts of America, said it hasn't come up among her scouts because they don't usually camp in Cape Elizabeth.

But living in the Shore Road area, where three bear sightings have been reported in the past five years, Pride believes. "It's not a stretch of my imagination that there would be a mountain lion or two," she said.

Townsend, who reported the mountain lion sighting in 1995, said she no longer hears questions about it, except for inquiries from the media and students studying mountain lions. "I don't think the mountain lion is running around town," she said. "There's lots of vegetation and forest, which is heavily populated with deer, and it wouldn't surprise me if there was something like that lion back there. But I don't think they're in every park in Cape Elizabeth."

Finally - another report, also via Loren Coleman and CZOneList, also from 1995. This appears to suggest that the elusive creature was even photographed!

MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTINGS SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION WITH HARD EVIDENCE OF THE BEAST LACKING, BIOLOGISTS ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK THEY SEE.

Published on Sunday, November 26, 1995
Maine Sunday Telegram, Portland, Maine
Byline: By Roberta Scruggs Staff Writer

An experienced photographer announced with great excitement that he'd snapped a roll of film of a mountain lion - an animal extinct east of the Mississippi for more than 50 years. When he brought the pictures to the New Hampshire Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department, however, it was clear the creature - spotted across a field in morning light - was a tom cat. "People do see things, nobody disputes that," said Charles Bridges, chief of New Hampshire's fish and wildlife department, "but their interpretation of what they see is anybody's guess."

The mountain lion, also called cougar, panther, puma, and catamount, stands at the center of one of the century's most puzzling wildlife mysteries. If the Eastern mountain lion is extinct, why are so many people seeing it?

Mountain lions are sighted regularly across the eastern United States, including about a dozen times in Maine each year. The Eastern Puma Network, based in Baltimore, reports more than 2,300 sightings since 1983....

This batch of stories just go to prove the truism that quaternary events do, indeed occur in 'clusters' and that with the arrival of the Internet, a medium which has totally reinvented

most people's concepts of global communication, these concepts are becoming even more self evident.

NEWSFILE EXTRA

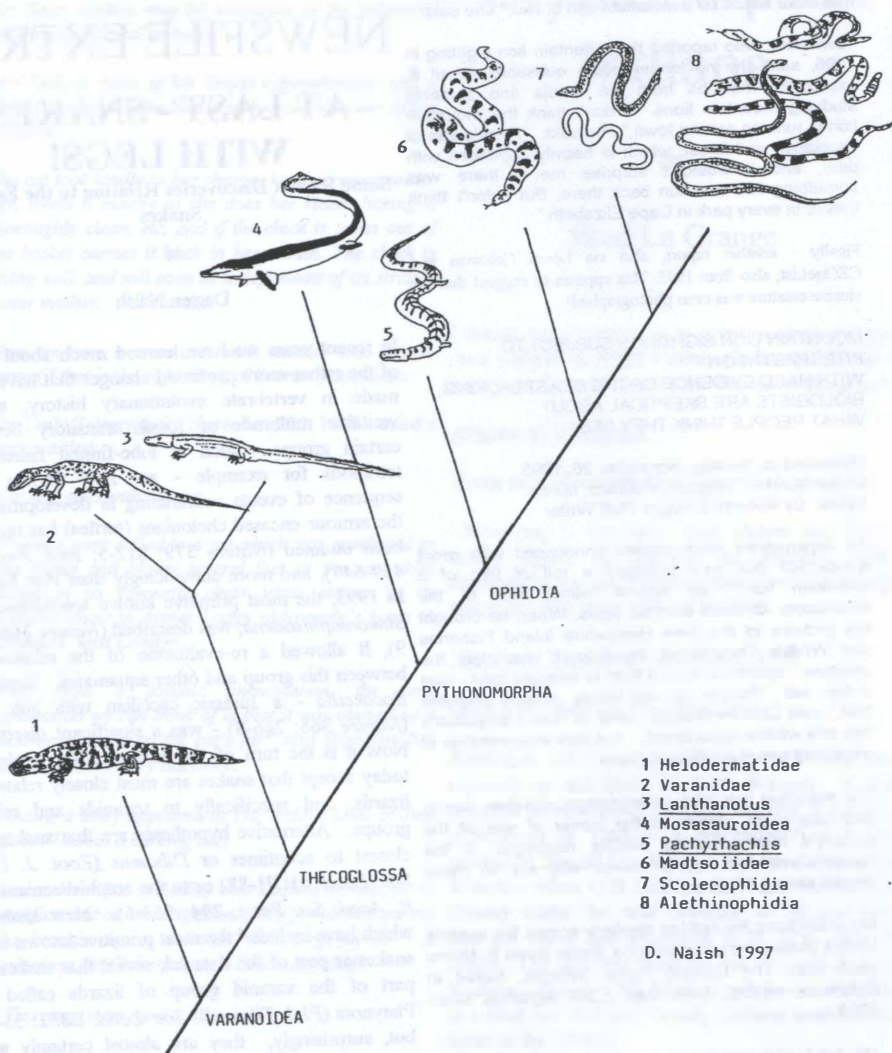
AT LAST - SNAKES WITH LEGS!

Some Recent Discoveries Relating to the Earliest Snakes

by

Darren Naish

In recent years we have learned much about some of the rather more profound changes that have been made in vertebrate evolutionary history, and a veritable multitude of fossils transitory between certain groups - such as lobe-finned fishes and tetrapods for example - are now known. A sequence of events culminating in development of the armour-encased chelonians (turtles) has recently been outlined (*Nature* 379: 812-5; *Biol. Rev.* 70: 459-547), and more convincingly than ever before. In 1993, the most primitive known amphisbaenian, *Sineoamphisbaena*, was described (*Nature* 366: 57-9). It allowed a re-evaluation of the relationship between this group and other squamates. Similarly, *Eocaecilia* - a Jurassic caecilian with little legs (*Nature* 365: 246-8) - was a significant discovery. Now it is the turn of the snakes. Most zoologists today accept that snakes are most closely related to lizards, and specifically to varanids and related groups. Alternative hypotheses are that snakes are closest to acontiines or *Dibamus* (*Zool. J. Linn. Soc. Lond.* 41: 71-88) or to the amphisbaenians (*C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris*, 294: 563-6). New analyses, which have included the most primitive known fossil snakes as part of the data set, reveal that snakes are part of the varanid group of lizards called the Platynta (*Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B352*: 53-91) but, surprisingly, they are almost certainly most related to mosasauroids - those sea-going, mostly enormous lizards of the Cretaceous.



D. Naish 1997

Both groups, sharing 40 specialised characters and therefore a single ancestor, form the Pythonomorpha. This group was actually created by E. D. Cope back in 1869. It fell into disfavour because no subsequent worker ever included both mosasauroids and snakes in the same analysis - until now.

Mosasauroids are marine lizards and the fact that they are close relatives of snakes suggests that snakes may owe their ancestry to an aquatic phase too. This theory would be corroborated if the earliest snakes were found to be marine... and, what do you know, they are (*Nature* 386: 705-9). New work on one of very earliest known snakes, *Pachyrhachis problematicus*, reveals a marine habit for this animal. Interestingly, *Pachyrhachis* has some pachyostotic bones. Pachyostosis - basically, thickening and hypermineralisation of the bone - is a common adaptation in aquatic vertebrates and enables them to use their own bodies (rather than swallowed stones) as ballast. Sirenians and some groups of bottom-feeding marine reptiles have pachyostotic bones.

The primitive status of *Pachyrhachis* is confirmed by the fact that it retains true hindlimbs and a well-developed pelvis (*Jour. Vert. Paleo.* 16: 68A; *Nature* 386: 705-9). It is also more lizard-like than later snakes, and, indeed was initially interpreted as a non-snake platynotan that had convergently evolved the snake body plan. (*Bull. Mus. Natn. Hist. Natl., Paris*, 2: 87-104). But the new work demonstrates that *Pachyrhachis* can properly be regarded as the 'Archaeopteryx' of the snake world.

Also far more lizard-like than later snakes are another 'wet' group, the madtsoiids. Though first thought to be part of the boa-python group and regarded as a sub-family of them (*Bull. Mus. Natn. Hist., Paris*, 33: 152-60), madtsoiids are actually very primitive and represent a radiation of primitive, perhaps amphibious snakes that lack the characters seen in advanced snakes - the group that includes all living snakes. Madtsoiids first appear in the Upper Cretaceous and ranged widely in the

Southern Hemisphere, being known from African, Madagascan, South American and Indian rocks of this age. A recent and startling discovery is madtsoiid material from Europe (*C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris*, 322: 603-8). Late Cretaceous Europe was a scrics of archipelagos linking northern Africa with Eurasia and madtsoiids, together with some Southern Hemisphere dinosaur groups (abelisaurs and titanosaurs), were able to island-hop northwards (*Terra Nova* 1: 69-74; *Geol. Mag.* 131: 625-30). Modern boas and pythons are superb mariners - there is one reliable record of a boa travelling nearly 200 miles cross-ocean on a piece of driftwood (*Sea Frontiers* 39: (6): 20-1) - so it should not come as a surprise that these enormous, bulky snakes were able to make crossings from island to island.

And enormous and bulky they were: the biggest madtsoiids achieved lengths of nine metres and were of oil-drum like girth. This is in contrast to giant modern snakes which, even when nine metres in length, are not massive in circumference. According to the Australian palaeoherpetologist Dr. Paul Willis, madtsoiids of these sizes would have weighed in at 800 kg. Or more! Not all madtsoiids were huge though: a small one has recently been reported from the Eocene-Agre Riversleigh deposits in Australia, although exactly how small it is has yet to be announced.

Madtsoiids were not an exclusively Cretaceous group as they survived, in Australia, until very recently - *Wonabi naracoortensis* was hunting wallabies until a few million years ago (c.g., in the Pleistocene). It has been suggested that *Wonabi* was adapted for climbing, perhaps in caves (*Mem. Qd. Mus.* 28: 139-151), but its bulky body has led others to suggest that it was amphibious (*Kadimakara*, Princeton Uni. Press, 156-9). I think, in view of their overall large size, great girth and phylogenetic relationships, that madtsoiids were analogues of certain extant big, bulky, snakes - namely anacondas (*Eunectes*) and wart snakes (*Achrochordus*). These modern analogues are amphibious.

ONLY FOOLS AND GOATSUCKERS

EXPEDITION REPORT:

Puerto Rico, Mexico and Miami JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1998

Puerto Rico is an island in the Antilles, and has been a dependent territory (it is no longer politically correct to term them 'colonies') of the United States for a Century now. Previous to the Spanish-American War it had been a colony of Imperial Spain, and even now towns like Old San Juan have a decidedly Mediterranean/Colonial feel to them. When considering the quasi foratean events which have surrounded the island for so many years now, it is, I believe, important to discuss Puerto Rico's unique geographical, political and socio-economic position within the Caribbean.

As well as the undoubted influences of Roman Catholic Spain, and the rampant capitalism of the United States (of which the island feels very much a 'poor relation' - whilst we were there the campaign for equal state-hood status was actively and violently going ahead) the socio-cultural influences of the rest of the Caribbean are also very much in evidence. The so called 'Voodoo Republic' of Haiti is only a figurative stonethrow away, and a belief in the 'old religion' of Santería - (a bastardised mishmash of West African folk belief practised by generations of slaves and their descendants) and the goner parts of Judeo-Christian belief are rampant across the island. It is not surprising that this diverse cultural schizophrenia has led to the formation of a community in which foratean phenomena are so common.

The first reports of what became known as the Moca vampire were in 1973 when on the 21st October, at El Yunque Mountain, in the middle of what remains of Puerto Rico's rain forest nine people saw four "weird" creatures, each of about 5-6 feet (1.5-1.8 m) in height. These creatures were quite active on the mountain slopes and made strenuous efforts to avoid the light of torches shone at them. Branches of trees were found broken and also strange footprints. Over the following months there were a series of attacks on domestic livestock in the area. The attacks were centred in the district of Moca (hence the popular name), and sightings of strange animals, often in conjunction with reports of UFO activity, continued. On the 18th April, 1975. At Ponce, Orlando Franceschi, a farmer, took a shovel out into the backyard of his home, after seeing what he took to be a stray dog. But what the farmer came face to face with was no dog. It had "long ears, a long nose to the mouth, which was slit

with no lips; two black blobs for eyes and the jawbone of an ape." When this creature walked, it did so swaying from side to side. The reports died down at the end of the 1970s, but about ten years later there were reports of more monsters. Firstly a creature resembling a large porcupine (there are no known porcupines living on the island - indeed there are only a very few indigenous mammals - was reported on the outskirts of the El Yunque rain forest. This animal was reputedly purely vegetarian in diet and lived mostly on plantains (the staple crop of the peasant farmers of Puerto Rico). A few years later other quasi-cryptozoological creatures - Devil Birds were reported from various parts of the island. Researchers at the time claimed that these were an (unnamed species of) native bird which had (for some unknown reason) had the spurs usually attached to the feet of fighting cocks (a sport which is still legal on Puerto Rico), grafted on to their beaks. These reports also petered out after a few months, but in the mid 1990s the animal mutilations started again. This time the culprit was described as El Chupacabra (Spanish for The Goat Sucker - also a derogatory term for prostitutes of the lowest order). This time the reports were much more homogenous in nature and described attacks on a wide range of domestic livestock and there were even disturbing reports of attacks on human beings. Researcher Conrad Goeringer wrote in 1997 that:

"Believers in the chupacabras say that the beast is a hybrid creature, in appearance something which resembles a cross between a giant dog and a lizard. It is said to walk upright on two feet, is capable of flight, and sinks its fangs into victims and kills them by drinking their blood. News reports of chupacabras sightings come from mostly rural areas; and while the mysterious creature seems to prefer farm animals like sheep, goats, and chickens, it has been alleged to attack humans."

A researcher at the Centre for Foratean Zoology, who shall remain nameless described the animal (most famously depicted by Puerto Rican researcher Jorge Martín) as a cross between a kangaroo and Sonic the Hedgehog (a computer game character) on acid! By 1996 the attacks had spread to Mexico, Guatemala and even the mainland United States. The reports continued and in September 1997 we were approached by AVP Films, an independent company to take an expedition to Puerto Rico, Mexico and Miami in the hope of tracking down some witnesses and discovering the truth about the creature. Even as we made preparations to embark on our adventure the attacks continued. his report, for example, was posted on the Internet in December 1997 by researcher Peter Petrisko:

"Utua, PUERTO RICO - Mysterious attacks on domestic farm animals, in this town 40 miles southwest of San Juan, have triggered rumors of

renewed predation by the Chupacabra ("goat sucker"). Forty-two large white rabbits, some chickens and a duck were found dead on a farm November 20. The dead animals had twin perforations mostly in the stomach region and feet. Most of the perforations were triangular. Researcher Scott Corrales added, "One rabbit had its stomach split, an incision so precise as to only have been made by a surgical instrument or by an expert surgeon. No trace of blood remained in any of the dead animals."

A week before Graham and I embarked to Latin America, the Director - Norman Hull, the Producer - Marcus Sulley, and the Researcher - Tom Tanner, had flown to San Juan (the capital of Puerto Rico) to pave the way for us and a few days before we were due to leave we received an excited e-mail from Tom telling us that there had been a devastating attack on over twenty fighting cocks in a small village near San Juan only the week before. It was obvious that we were going to have an exciting time!

As events transpired - we did!

A day to day day of our expedition can be found on The Internet, and will eventually be available in book form, but for the purposes of this issue of Animals & Men, here are a few excerpts....

THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 1998 - PUERTO RICO

Our first witness, who by English standards at least, seemed to live in dreadful poverty, was in fact a policewoman and quite well off by the standards of her village. She told us in a mixture of Spanish (translated by Rueben, a New York Policeman who had been 'given' to us as an escort and interpreter for the day) and extremely hesitant English, how about eighteen months or so before, she had been hanging out her washing on a line in the back yard - in reality an area of wasteland decorated by pampas grass and the stumps of two moth-eaten banana trees - when she had seen a spinning red light in the sky several miles away between two mountains.

Within days she had experienced a series of attacks on her poultry which were kept in a ramshackle (but extremely secure) coop underneath the house. Here, I should perhaps explain, that the house in which she was living had been built on the side of a steep hillock, and the back part of the house was raised from the ground on stilts. The chicken coop was therefore at ground level between them.

She told us how on several occasions she had found members of her flock, outside on the ground although they had previously been locked into the coop for the night. On

each occasion, the corpses were totally exsanguinated (presumably through two puncture marks on the neck) but were otherwise unharmed. On one of these occasions she and her brother had seen the animal that they believed was responsible. It was bipedal and looked a little like a kangaroo with spikes sticking out of its back. It had a reptilian face and slit eyes. She drew us a picture which showed a creature remarkably similar to the drawing made so familiar by Puerto Rican UFO researcher Jorge Martin.

She told us how some of the chickens had been covered with a revolting layer of slime which she assumed was saliva. This facet of the chupacabra attacks has been noted elsewhere, and many researchers have hypothesised that this slime is in fact some kind of anti-coagulant which is used - like that in the saliva of a vampire bat - to aid the exsanguination of the chupacabra's victims.

She also drew our attention to an ancient thorn tree just beyond the perimeter wall which surrounded her property. The creature had disappeared into the undergrowth here, she told us, but as it did so it rubbed itself against the tree leaving a revolting stain as if it had been covered with ink. This was too good an opportunity to miss, and so the intrepid team - well, Graham actually, as he is more limber and supple than yours truly - climbed over the wall and negotiated the steep slope to the base of the tree. At the bottom of the slope was what looked suspiciously like an open sewer, and I was very glad that it was Graham, not me who had to avoid falling headfirst into it.

Graham eventually reached the base of the tree, but much to my disappointment he said that there was no sign of any discolouration or stain upon the bark. Mostly for the benefit of the ever-watching cameras (but partly in a vain attempt to secure some sort of specimens) he scraped some bark samples from the base of the tree where our witness and her brother claimed that the stain had once been, and, to preserve some semblance of scientific integrity, took a second bark sample from another part of the tree for use as a control sample. He then negotiated the slippery slope up to join the rest of us, and we went on to visit our next witness.

We didn't have far to go. She lived next door. She, too had seen a mysterious creature but was afraid and refused to talk to us. According to Rueben she was a refugee from Colombia and spoke only her own peculiar dialect of Spanish. She was, he claimed (and I have no reason at all to disbelieve him), both highly superstitious and distrustful of both the police and the media. The political background from whence she had come made this last statement highly believable.

She did, however, provide us with a potentially exciting piece of evidence. Although she did not want to talk to us, she was

willing to give us a sample of what she claimed was chupacabra dung.

Highly excited I asked for more information, but was somewhat deflated when, on her instructions (shouted through the barred screen-doors as all the way through our conversations she refused to come outside), Rueben took us to a particularly dry and desiccated piece of ground about fifty feet from the front of her house, and pointed sceptically down to the ground below us. There, coiled malevolently were what I assume were some enormous worm casts. Again, more as a matter of form than for any other reason I took some samples (noting some peculiar indentations on the dry ground next to them) and carried them in a specimen jar to the lady of the house who confirmed (through Rueben) that yes, this was what she meant, and would we please now leave her property.

There was obviously nothing more that we could get out of her. I noted at the time, however, that although what we had collected were almost certainly worm casts, the ground on which we found them was baked solid with the sun and was as hard as concrete. When you add to that the fact that during the rest of our stay on the island, although I examined every piece of waste ground that we passed I never saw any other worm casts even remotely resembling the so-called chupacabra dung of Dorado, it is, perhaps fortunate that I took my specimens back to England with us.

That afternoon we visited a house owned by a man called George who appeared to be a local small-time gangster.

According to the information that we had been given, there had been an attack on over thirty cockerels that had been owned by George and his next door neighbour. I will be the first to admit that I have a typically English middle-class stance towards bloodsports and those who practise them, and therefore my sympathies were not altogether with the bereaved farmers. George was the sort of wide-boy who, in he had been English would have lived on the outskirts of somewhere like Harlow New-Town making a living from selling 'dodgy motahs' and 'bent MOTs'. He was not an immediately likeable person but once we had by-passed his air of bravado we could see that he really was frightened. His business partner Oscar described how he had found the birds found killed and drained of blood and how there had been a trail of three-toed footprints leading across the surface of the yard. We examined one of the chickens and there were indeed two massive puncture wounds on the neck and thorax, and the body appeared bloodless. We took feather samples from around the area of the puncture wounds, hoping that subsequent analysis would show some evidence of the mysterious slime (theorised by some to be an anti-coagulant)

which has been reported on so many of the chupacabra's victims.

Both George and Oscar voiced their fears that the chupacabra would soon stop killing domestic livestock and start to attack human victims. Although there is some evidence that this may have happened in Mexico, the accounts of attacks on humans in Puerto Rico do seem, like Mark Twain's death, to have been somewhat exaggerated.

WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY 1998 - MEXICO

One of our most promising witnesses was a vet in the town of Puebla, just south of the volcano Popocatepetl. It took several days to track her down but she took us to a smallholding owned by an old Mexican farmer called Dom Pedro. A year before three of his sheep had been attacked by a mysterious creature. According to Soledad, the vet - the first professional on the scene - found that, although the sheep were completely drained of blood, not breathing and their hearts not beating, they were still alive twelve hours after the attack: they reacted to light and touch stimuli, were in great pain and eventually had to be destroyed. As someone with a working knowledge of animal physiology I found this account completely mystifying, and can put forward no scientific rationalisation for it. There were huge crucifixes daubed on the walls of Dom Pedro's farmyard and all over the walls of houses in his village. Again Dom Pedro spoke no English, but even my Spanish is adequate to translate the words "Por proteccion de vampiros"...

WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 1998 - UNITED STATES

Early that morning Graham and I were appearing as special guests on a Radio Programme being broadcast from Fort Lauderdale. The programme rejoiced in the name "*Footy and The Chicks at Six*" and was presented by a New York Irishman called "*Footy*" (who made a series of not particularly funny jokes about Englishmen until I gave him a clenched fist salute and whispered "*Tiocfaidh ar Lar*" at him - a technique that has got me out of trouble in Hibernian hostilities on a number of occasions). The "*Chicks at Six*" turned out to be two charming (reasonably) youngish ladies of (obviously) Spanish descent. Much to the chagrin of the Norrnan who saw his prime directive being compromised, our 'on-air' conversation became sidetracked onto the subject of the skunk ape.

A caller, who identified herself only as 'Denise' described to us her encounter with a chimpanzee type creature that made a strange hooting noise somewhat akin to the electronic feedback from a badly tuned electric guitar. 'Denise' tried to emulate the sound for us, and having done so was slightly libellously compared by 'Footy' to the music made by Rock

Group, Aerosmith, who were the special guests on his show immediately after us.

Other callers also described their experiences and it soon became apparent that the 'skunk ape' was as real to the inhabitants of Southern Florida as are the big cats which still roam the moorlands of south-western England to the farmers of Bodmin Moor. Unlike the so-called Beast of Bodmin, however, it was also apparent that most of the people who had encountered the 'creature' were of the opinion that it was supernatural in nature rather than a flesh and blood animal. Several callers linked it with the local practise of Santeria - a voodoo-like religion practised all over the Caribbean by descendants of slaves, and other people that we met within the staff of the radio station itself linked it strongly with the UFO reports which had been prevalent in the area over the previous few years.

Thursday 5th February 1998 - HOME AGAIN

The next day we discovered quite how strange the skunk ape phenomenon actually was. Still on the track of El Chupacabra we were filming in Sweetwater, a particularly innocuous suburb of Miami where, allegedly at least, the first Chupacabra killings on the mainland of the United States had taken place. The original witness was not available to see us, and as our schedule was tight we had to be content with interviewing the UFO investigator who had first collated the evidence of the killings.

It soon became evident that the animal that had been seen by the original witness (a worker at a suburban rest home for psycho-geriatrics) had very little to do with the main body of chupacabra attacks which are discussed elsewhere in this book. The animal she had seen was something like a cross between an ape and a shaggy black dog, and moved semi-bipedally leaving a trail of exsanguinated chickens and turkeys behind it.

We were shown plaster casts which were taken at the time and which purport to be taken from tracks found in the area where the beast was seen. The cast resembles that of a very large dog print, but with one incredible difference! It appears to have the finger nails of a human or an ape rather than the claw marks of a canid. I persuaded our friend Vergilio Sanchez from the Miami UFO Centre to let me have a copy as a memento mori, and more by luck than by judgement it arrived safely back in England wrapped in a stolen hotel hand-towel, and as I write is now proudly resting upon the piano in my sitting room. At the time, the connection between UFO reports and a bizarre canine/hominoid hybrid rang a mental bell in the innermost recesses of my mind, reminding me of something I had seen and heard about in Suffolk the previous year, but there was nothing that I could

do about it at the time, and as there was more pressing work to do, I mentally filed it in my cerebral in tray, and got on with the job at hand.

When we got back to England, however, the pieces of the puzzle began to fall into place.

As readers of my inky fingered scribbles both here and elsewhere will be aware, I have long taken an interest in the semi-legendary events that took place at the end of December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest in eastern England. Over A period of three nights, what was quite possibly the most significant UFO episode in British history took place and the reverberations from those events have echoed across the world ever since. From my point of view, however, what is particularly interesting is that Rendlesham has been the epicentre for a wide range of episodic high strangeness for many years, and there are several links between the events there and the events that we were investigating half way across the world in southern Florida.

The area between Orford Ness and Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk is a very strange place. As well as being one of the most eastern points in the British Isles it has also been the focus for a wide range of bizarre paranormal activity. Writing in the 13th Century, Ralph of Coggeshall, described a "wild man" caught in fishing nets off Orford Castle. This creature who like so many contemporary sightings of humanoids seen in conjunction with UFOs was seemingly equally at home on land and at sea, lived at the castle for several months. The wild man is not the only item of cryptozoological interest from the Rendlesham area. The lanes of the area are reputedly haunted by giant spectral black dogs (like the one seen by Lady Rendlesham in Leiston Churchyard at the end of the nineteenth century), that pad malevolently but silently along. An even more disturbing spectre called the *shug monkey*, which is described by witnesses as an unholy combination of mastiff and great ape is also seen on occasion, and in recent years the forest has also been the haunt of mysterious black 'panthers'.

At the end of 1997 I was introduced to a lady called Maxine Pearson who lives in Southend upon Sea. During our long and convoluted telephone conversations about UFOs, crop circles, CIA Mind Control experiments and the like I happened to mention that my real interests lay in cryptozoology and in particular with monster hunting.

Much to my amazement Maxine calmly told me that she was in possession of some video tape which showed the paw print of some huge animal - like that of a cat or a dog, but far bigger and with strange flattened finger nails rather than claws. She thought that it was a print from an alien big cat of some description, but my immediate thought was of the semi-

mystical 'shug monkey'. When I later found that my friend and colleague Jan Scarff who was brought up in the vicinity of the air bases also knew about the so-called 'shug-monkey' I became even more interested, and when, a few weeks later in an unimpressively obscure suburb of Miami I saw a plaster cast and heard a description of a bizarre dog/ape hybrid seen in conjunction with both UFO activity and animal mutilation episodes, another link in the chain was formed. There seems no doubt that there is some connection between the two types of phenomena. What the connection is, however, remains obscure. It would be ridiculously simplistic, to my mind at least, to claim that the hairy humanoids, like Lord Kimbote portrayed in a classic episode of *The X Files*, are the denizens of the mysterious space craft. I think that the truth is far less obvious and far more subtle. Both phenomena are inextricably linked, but are symptoms of something far greater and far less easy to understand.

Tuesday 10th February 1998

After an eight hour flight during which I drank as much whisky as I was allowed (not very much) and then fell asleep, we landed at Heathrow Airport at about eight forty five in the morning. I knew that I could explain the three extra bottles of Tequila in my suitcase, but as I approached the waiting customs officers, and the sign asking us whether we were in possession of any biohazardous material, the hairs on the back of my neck literally began to stand up as I frantically wondered whether the contents of my rucksack counted as "Something to Declare". Feeling like the hapless employee of some Colombian cocaine baron, I smiled sweetly at the forces of law and order and walked unscathed into the cold London air.

When I got home the house was in a reasonable state of chaos and there was a serious amount of tidying up to be done. When, several hours after arriving home Graham had unpacked my computer from where it had been hidden in the loft and I finally managed to access three and a half weeks e-mails, I discovered amongst the assorted rubbish and junk mail this following message from a cryptozoological Newsgroup:

"..... my wife found a great battery operated Chupacabras toy at a local shop today. About a foot-high with a devilish face and bloody claws, the chap's automated actions are nothing special, but he sure looks great. Made in China by the "Super S. Heroes" company, this delightful addition to the kids' Easter basket cost \$16. Probably available at better toy stores and import-oriented flea markets everywhere."

I looked at my dog, laughed and lit a cigarette. It was obviously going to be one of those days....

The Quagga Project Update

by Chris Moiser

Firstly, 13 of the project zebras at the Elandsberg private reserve are being moved to the Karoo National Park and Addo Elephant Park. This is highly significant for two reasons. The more important of these is that both of these are in the Quagga's original range, and so future breeding of these zebras will hopefully be subject to the same selection pressures that the original quaggas evolved under - the areas, being National Parks, have not changed significantly since the Quagga became extinct. The second factor is that this translocation now means that the National Parks Board are involved in the project, and by inference are giving it their support.

The second major activity, during March, involved the BBC. A film crew from the BBC "*QED*" programme filmed for a programme to be broadcast later in the year, devoted entirely to the Quagga project. It will include interviews with David Barnaby ("*Quaggas and other Zebras*") and Reinhold Rau, the project secretary. Filming for the programme has also taken place at London Zoo and Knowsley Safari Park (there were quaggas in the past at Knowsley Hall). It is hoped to also film in Amsterdam Zoo, where the last quagga died.

BESTIARY: THE MANTICORE

by Ade Dimmick

Ade Dimmick is the Editor of The Dragon Chronicle - essential reading for those with an interest in all things Draconian. Starting with this issue he is giving the readers of "Animals & Men" a guided tour (in his own inimitable style) to the contents of his Draconian Bestiary...

The bestiares of the middle ages are full of all kinds of weird and wonderful beasts that should more than pique the interests of the average cryptozoologist. The manticore is no exception, a savage predator, with obscure creation mythology links, depicted in medieval heraldry and used as the symbol of jeremiahs, the biblical prophet! The manticore or marticoras was a lion/human/scorpion composite, said to have originated in India. Its name comes from the Persian *mardkhora*, which means man-eater. The earliest recorded reference was made by Ctesias, the Greek traveller, physician, priest and historian (c.BC 400).

The manticore can be both male and female. Its head was human, although this was confined to the face and ears. Its azure blue eyes held a hypnotic gaze and its face was said to

have been 'deceitfully honest'. Its vermilion red body was that of a lion, sometimes including the tail, but more often the tail was scaled like a serpent's; long and scorpion-like. The tail held poisonous quills which were fired, projectile fashion, at any adversary or prey. Occasionally it was depicted as having bat-like wings, but there is no evidence to suggest that it ever flew. It also had three rows of razor sharp teeth on each jaw, which would tear its victim to pieces. Incidentally, its favourite delicacy was human flesh. Its shrill voice resembled the combined sound of the trumpet and flute; it also hissed like a serpent. Other striking physical attributes included extremely powerful legs, which enabled it to jump incredibly high, and run faster than a bird in flight. Because of this, it was virtually impossible to capture or contain. The female of the species, while sharing the same habits and characteristics as the male, differed slightly in appearance. Its whole body was covered in the same serpent-like scales confined to the tail in the male. It also displayed obvious breasts and appeared to have something resembling a phrygian bonnet on its head! The female has also been compared with the Sirens of Greek mythology, and is seen to be representative of the feminine principle connected with the primeval waters and creation mythology. The manticores' natural habitat is said to have been the jungles of Asia. It is documented as the most dangerous and feared of all the jungle creatures, as well as the most dangerous beast ever known to Man! It has been suggested that the manticore legend may have been born out of Man's instinctive fear of predators, the living reality of man-eating tigers and folktales of weretigers - a feline version of werewolves.

Conversation pieces

by Richard Freeman

Not all great cryptozoological tales are to be found in mildewed old tomes. You would be amazed at what can turn up in casual conversation. The following two quite astounding accounts emerged TOTALLY unsolicited during conversations where we were talking of totally un-cryptozoological matters.

My girlfriend's late husband, Trevor Butt was an extensively travelled man who had lived and worked in several countries. He spent many years in Australia employed as an animal keeper at a circus. During this time he rescued an aboriginal co-employee from a fire. The two men became bonded in brotherhood from then on. She could not recall the name of her ex husband's aboriginal friend name but he rejoiced in the nickname of "Wombat".

Around 1968 the two friends were visiting Trevor's brother Barry who worked as a national park ranger. All three of them were out walking Barry's dogs near his home in Queensland when they noticed a bizarre animal stealthily approaching them from some undergrowth. At this point in my girlfriend's narrative my ears really pricked up. She described the beast as having dark stripes. "Thylacine" was my first thought, but there were more surprises in store. I allowed her to continue without question, and the tale that emerged was amazing. The creature was catlike and had tigerish stripes, however all three knew it was no 'tiger'. Trevor and "Wombat" had both worked with true tigers. It had large tufted ears and was rusty coloured with black bands. The animal was as tall as Barry's german shepherd dog but far longer. As soon as the dogs showed an interest in the beast it ran back into the forest and disappeared. Only one animal fits that description - the so-called "Queensland tiger".

The second story emerged when Jon, Graham and I were interviewing Mr Rupert Bunts about his puma sighting on Exmoor. Mr Bunts inquired about my zoological interests and when I said that crocodilians were my chief interest he told me a highly interesting tale:

Rupert Bunts had been a soldier in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the early 70s and one of his jobs was to intercept terrorists from neighbouring Zambia. The easiest way to tell if a man was indeed a terrorist was by his boots, Zambian boots being different from Rhodesian ones. On one occasion a suspect ran into the water in the southern end of Lake Kariba, in an attempt to swim away from the patrols. The ill-fated fellow was seized and bitten in two by an immense crocodile. Rupert and his companions opened fire on the giant reptile with high-powered SLR rifles. These can send a bullet through a brick wall at one mile range. Not even the armour plate of a giant crocodile could withstand such a barrage. Once the monster lay still they drew alongside in a boat. When dragged ashore and cut open, the luckless suspect's legs were retrieved. His boots were indeed Zambian.

I asked Rupert how big the crocodile was. To my amazement he answered, "Between 25 and 30 feet." The record for the Nile crocodile is 21 ft for one shot by the Duke of Mecklenberg in Tanzania in 1905. Mr Bunts' specimen would be a new record, but sadly the soldiers did not know the importance of their specimen and did not photograph it. Since Mr Bunts actually shot and cut open the animal, I do not think it likely that he could have been mistaken about the size. Both Mr Bunts and my girlfriend Joyce had no idea of the significance of these tales and related them just as incidental conversation. So keep your ears pinned back: you never know what you may hear!

North of the Border

A selection of musings from the blurred digits of

Tom "mine's four litres of white lightning" Anderson

Annually there are 40 to 50 cetacean strandings recorded on the UK mainland, of which 70% occur in Scotland.

Until now, only two centres have had the expertise to rescue sea mammals - at Aberdeen and Caithness. However, and beluga or blackfish reading this and contemplating grazing their chin on some intermediate beach will be relieved to learn that squads of re-floaters are currently undergoing training in Caithness. As you can't count on a stranding at any given time, the volunteers use an inflatable 20 ft (6 m) model of a pilot whale and vast quantities of what appears to be soggy tarpaulin.

As most of these dear people are frail creatures of the female persuasion and unable to grasp anything more muscular than a pilchard, never mind the concept of clearing the airways of the aforesaid tarpaulin, it was indeed a painful sight to see.

My final, frustrated and disparaging cry of "Just open the air valve, you stupid bitch, and chuck it out to sea" was not received in the constructive vein in which it had been intended.

My New year's resolution, should I live so long, will be to cease deriding those who believe the year 2000 marks anything at all besides the erection of a rather tasteless and costly marquee at Greenwich.

This is due to recent seismic hints that the day of reckoning is nigh - they have shaken my faith in believing in damn-all.

One interpretation is that it's heaven's judgement on a nation which deifies the Spice Girls and whose

idea of social interaction is watching soap opera.s. Whatever the cause, the punishments have been somewhat bizarre. For example, in July 1997, a mineral bottling plant in Perthshire was rocked by an earthquake (2.7 Richter) thereby negating their labels claiming their water was "still". In August a seven-year-old camel in Merseyside, amusing himself expectorating on tourists, was killed by a bolt of lightning.

And on 7th September a tornado struck a Nottinghamshire farm, hurtling 40 pigs skywards along with their sties. Weathermen blamed a huge drop in air pressure.

Oh yeah?

GRAHAM'S COMMENT: *The so-called "millenium" in 2000 is a good excuse for a boozing session, if one needs an excuse (personally, I don't) but otherwise is fairly meaningless. Firstly, the new millenium commences in 2001, not 2000, since the AD calendar commenced from year 1 rather than year zero.*

Secondly, the year-count relates to the birth of Jesus, which many historians and theologians now agree occurred in 7 BC and in September, not December - so the millenium should have been celebrated back in 1993. And as regards calendars, the Moslem millenium doesn't occur for another 540 years and the Jewish one is 683 years away. And thirdly, the "round number" aspect of the year 2000 only applies in "base ten" decimal arithmetic: if humans had evolved from a Devonian fish with 8 digits instead of 10, for instance, then the millenium would have happened 320 years ago. So let's keep a sense of perspective as we get pie-eyed on December 31st. And remember to stay away from lifts, aircraft, washing machines, and anything else dependent upon computer chips!

CLINTON'S COGITATIONS

Clinton Keeling, veteran zoologist and Zookeeper, and editor of "Mainly About Animals", looks back at the last issue of "Animals & Men".

Another packed issue - and, again, a rich source to draw on from within. Let's look at a few of the more "commentable-upon" points...

I note with a strange blend of irritation and amusement on p.5 that the Institute of Zoology cannot (?) afford the £15,000 allegedly required to examine the Orang Pendek material. I'm sorry, but I just plain, honest-to-God don't believe it - not only that such a sum would be needed but that they haven't got it either. I come upon this sort of thing, backed up by this feeble excuse, so frequently that I'm getting rather tired of firing back my stock rejoinder to such unenthusiastic folk - "If you took only a slight cut in your salaries to release more money to do your work, your incomes would still be above the national average."

Concerning the "Legendary Amazon Forest Monster" wasting valuable space on p.6, just for the record I'll waste a bit more by - well, I was going to say I don't believe a word of it, but on second thoughts I'll replace "word" with "syllable".

I fear I don't agree that the Wallabies dealt with on p.7 have been known to cryptozoologists for years, as they are far outside the realm of cryptozoology, being a well-known and common species - chiefly the Bennett's Wallaby (*Macropus ruficollis bennetti*) artificially introduced here and about whose existence there isn't the slightest doubt. The so-called "wildlife expert" ought to take up plumbing instead [he said that their success indicates how much the British climate has changed in the past few years] as although this species originates on Tasmania it's incredibly hardy, so its survival here isn't a source of wonder at all. We kept the species at the Ashover Zoological Garden, high up in the Peak of Derbyshire (the coldest part of England) but

they invariably refused to avail themselves of the straw-filled shelter provided for cold weather, in fact often in the early morning they tucked into their food with small icicles hanging from their fur in an almost chandelier-like manner. It's worth recalling, too, that the first Wallabies released in this country were those belonging to Sir Philip Brocklehurst, who turned them loose on the moorlands above Leek on the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border, where the altitude was even higher than Ashover's - and there wasn't a man-made shelter in sight!

Right, now concerning escaping Iguanas (p.9) I'm going to disagree mildly with our revered Editor - but I'm sure that, as gentlemen, any verbal or written altercation between us will be conducted in a most civilised manner.

He writes, "...any amateur herpetologist will tell you Iguanas and their relatives are great escape artists and will often disappear from the most securely sealed vivarium..." but here, surely, the operative word is the one not greatly appreciated by professionals - "amateur".

Yes, this happens all too often in collections operated by amateurs, whereas professionals know exactly what their charges are capable of, so therefore make sure such escapes are impossible. I'm afraid this is quite a problem, especially since, over the last few years, keeping non-domestic species has become such a craze, as the local press loves to batten on such events and so broadcast unfavourable and unwelcome publicity.

Now, don't misunderstand me; some amateur wild animal keepers are good, very good indeed - but unfortunately there are far too many who regard a newly-acquired specimen as something to take down to the pub to show off, or to keep in a compartment totally unsuited for its needs, pending of course its well-publicised escape. These are the ignorant b*****s we can well do without as their antics are currently attracting the attention of the legislators and the law-makers.

I thought the article "The Bigfoot Murders" (pp.14-18) was truly excellent, as unlike most of those in cryptozoological publications it didn't frantically and desperately clutch at straws - as, for example, a certain VERY well-known and oft-quoted book does - and in some cases pours scorn on tall tales that some would have grabbed gleefully to their bosoms as proof positive of the "existence" of some non-such. (Just one unfortunate mistake however, on p.15 - "All monkeys and apes ... have fingernails rather than ... claws". No, sorry, Marmosets and Tamarins have claws.

At last, at long last, someone else has the courage to say something I've been saying (to everyone's horror) since the 1950s. Yes, I entirely agree that the famous De Loys photograph (discussed on p.16) is simply that of a perfectly ordinary Spider Monkey (*Ateles sp.*). I mean, damn it, just take another look at it and tell me what the blue-blazes else it can be? When people say words to the effect "no it's not a Spider Monkey but something quite different" I'm reminded of a story by Hans Christian Anderson that I'm sure you know - something about the Emperor's new clothes...

Regarding the tale on the same page about a Vet killing and eating a number of soldiers, in that case all I can say is that the Ghurkas are not what they used to be, as this is what they'd have been...

Again, at very long last, I've come upon someone else who shares my intense dislike of the Chimpanzee - although to be fair I ought to specify the *adult* Chimpanzee (p.17). I know that in these days when so many people have a sort of "thing" about Anthropoid Apes it's little short of blasphemy to make statements of this sort, so I was beginning to wonder whether I was the only person around who regards the creature as a thoroughly nasty piece of work - in fact perhaps the only species, apart from the domestic dog, I actively dislike.

I might add that I'm a zoologist who specialised in the Primates, but I just cannot like this one.

I can speak with a bit of authority too, as I've had quite a lot of experience with it, including having kept a total of six of my own. People often say I'm being unscientific by endowing the species with human attributes that I dislike in Man, but the fact remains no other species affects me in this way. The adult Chimpanzee seems to be mentally unstable (periodically screaming hysterically and throwing itself about both in confinement and the wild), unnecessarily aggressive, treacherously violent and with unpleasant personal habits - furthermore it has the unenviable reputation of being the only *wild* animal I've ever known to attack a human child. Less seriously, I'm honest enough *still* to say that a person is/isn't common (vide my remarks in issue 15 of *Animals & Men* on political correctness) and in my view the adult Chimpanzee has the face of a downright pleb., which the Gorilla and Orang Utan certainly hasn't!

In short, thanks Richard Freeman, whoever you are, for a fine and valuable article.

On p.20 mention was made of the so-called Mountain Beaver, also known as the Sewellel (I've never known anyone risk pronouncing this latter verbally; have you?), but rather surprisingly no mention was made of its most remarkable individual characteristic as a species, which I imagine is unique. When it voids faeces it pulls each pellet out from the anus, with the teeth, but why, only the Almighty knows - and he won't split.

Oh dear, I'm about to clash with the editor again... On p.21 it states there are certainly Beavers living wild in this country. O.K., then, being essentially a peace-loving person I'll say so too. The fact remains, however, that if they are "out there" (as a trendy would say) they must have somehow abandoned all their natural instincts, as believe me even a small Beaver lodge and dam can be seen from at least half a mile away and makes itself felt over a very wide area - and I've never heard of any such alterations to our English countryside. How do

I know this? Well, folks, I *did* spend three years with the Canadian Wildlife Service...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The beavers on the River Axe which were noted as far back as 1988 by MAFF were brought to my attention by a Mammologist from Exeter University who told me that these animals are indeed building dams on obscure backwaters of the river. Whether or not they are breeding, however, needs to be discovered by someone with the time to go out and look for them. The farmer who owns the land is reluctant to give out concise information but through the good offices of Exeter University we are hoping that we can mount an expedition to study and film the creatures some time this summer. However, like most of our plans this one is very much open to being rearranged at a moments notice.

Sorry, very sorry, but I just cannot believe that wolverines are rampaging about the British countryside [Terry Hooper's article, pp 22-24 in last issue]. Very occasionally, perhaps, the odd one might have got out, and contrived to remain elusive (contrary to the nature of the species) but I draw the line beyond this.

Just consider a few facts. This is a large species (occasionally it preys on Deer) and is largely diurnal, so by all the laws of averages it shouldn't be long after one has taken up residence in an area that the human population knows all about it, as it certainly doesn't hide from Man. It also has a strange habit (shared by some kinds of Bears but no other animal I can think of offhand) of entering cabins, sheds, outhouses and other structures in search of food *and then wrecking the joint* - and as no such cases seem to have been reported I'm yet again forced to the conclusion that if Wolverines are loose in Wales they seem to have shed their normal behaviour.

Another indication of the value of *Animals & Men* in not blindly accepting each and every "inexplicable" report - in fact its readiness to come up with a logical explanation - appears between pp. 25 and 27 in the article I haven't time to copy out here. [It was by Jan Scarff, telling how he, Jonathan Downes and others located the "Weird Warbling Whatsit of the Westcountry".] I feel strongly that one such paper is worth ten which, as per my earlier comment, clutch forlornly at straws, at least as far as the cause of cryptozoology is concerned.

Again, "Wherefore Art Thou, Nessie" (pp. 28-31) [by Neil Arnold] was first-rate in that it looked at the subject (if in fact there is one) sensibly and objectively - besides being perhaps unique in offering a kind of "guide" to Loch Ness Monster hunters, with its plethora of good tips. Also, although I do not believe in its existence, I share the writer's concern about the trade in souvenirs trivialising the whole concept.

Just one thing, another *bete noir* of mine which I know most other people couldn't care less about, but it absolutely jars on me, as it sounds so discordant, even ugly. The beginning of the last paragraph of the left-hand column on p.29 - "...the castle seemed like it was peering..." Ugh! Yuk! Please, please: "...the castle seemed to be..." or "looked as though..." I really do think this Americanism, that has now got so firm a grip on some of us over here, sounds utterly horrible. Believe it or not, but I've even heard schoolteachers using it. It was still a damned good article, though.

As a once-popular catch-phrase used to go, "And that's yer lot" (let me hasten to add I never used it; like most self-educated people I am decidedly pedantic) which, for all I know, might produce sighs of relief, but if, on the other hand, I've contrived to unearth a point or two from the rich bed that is this publication which has proved to be of interest - well, it's something, I suppose.

A COLLECTION OF CAT CURIOSITIES

by

Richard Muirhead

This essay is a result of a search through my files on all sorts of information about cats, mainly but not only the domestic moggie.

There is already an excellently documented account of cat cryptozoology, Karl Shuker's *Mystery Cats of The World*. But to the best of my knowledge the information presented here has not been widely reported before in the canon of cryptozoological or Fortean literature as a whole. I may, of course, be wrong as I have not done an extensive search.

In the second quarter of the Fifteenth Century *The Master of Game* was published and is now deposited in The Bodleian Library, Oxford. The illustration below is a reproduction of a postcard showing a spotted wildcat from this publication (MS Bodley 546, fol. 40 verso). In my opinion, this illustration could be of an earlier European version of the leopard or even an unknown species of feline.



In 1931 Bernard Read published his translation of a late medieval Chinese *Materia Medica on Animals* which contains some interesting information.

White tigers are referred to as "Han" and black tigers as "Yu". "Piao" was a five toed kind of tiger and when with horns it was termed "Ssu".

EDITOR'S NOTE: The CFZ were, I believe, only the second or third investigation team to arrive on Bodmin Moor after the attacks on livestock at Ninestones Farm in 1993.

Whatever one thinks of the video evidence produced by Mrs Rosemary Rhodes, there is no doubt that she has some spectacularly unusual pussy cats living on her farm.

They are not only particularly large but there is a strain of them that, like the "Piao" mentioned briefly above, had five toes on each of its feet.....

The "Ssu" was described in greater length:

"It is shaped like a cat and is the size of a cow. A yellow coat with black spots. Saw-like teeth and hooked claws....It roars like thunder and causes a wind to rise."

Other cat-like or tiger-like animals mentioned here include:

Chiu Erh:

"A huge tiger that lives on a non carnivorous diet but it kills tigers and leopards. It has a white body with black spots and a tail longer than the body".

Po:

"... a piebald horse - a fabulous tiger, body like a horse, white body with a black tail, a single horn, serrated teeth with which it can eat tigers and leopard."

Whilst researching in Northampton library last summer I came across an interesting book called *The Natural History of Northampton-shire with some Account of the Antiquities* by John Morton, published in 1712. It has some interesting things to say about wild-cat colouration:

"I mean in respect of the Colour, which for the main is a dusky Red or Yellow, and that is in all of them; whereas in the Tame ones it is various and uncertain. The She Cats are finshed, and the like Lone-Houses, do sometimes wander into the Neighbouring Woods and are gibb'd by the Wild ones there."

If 'gibb'd' means to mate, and it would seem from the context of the sentencing that it does, this would be interesting confirmation of the view of some cryptozoologists that some of the mystery feral cats of S.W. England may be domestic-wild cat hybrids like the Northamptonshire ones almost three hundred years ago.

The Daily Mail of January 3rd 1995 carried an interesting story of a cat:

... *"who came back from the dead."* The story was that a fourteen year old tabby in Ipswich who was barely able to walk was given a supposedly lethal injection by a vet to put it to sleep.

The vet confirmed that the cat *"had no discernible heartbeat at all"*... but seventeen hours after the injection the cats owner heard a rustling in the box and the cat emerged alive!

EDITOR'S NOTE: this is a common story within the annals of forteana and, indeed within literature as a whole. It was even a scenario mentioned in one of the classic "William" stories by Richmal Crompton, who also, by the way, included lake monsters, ghosts, poltergeist phenomena and aliens amongst other forteen phenomena as inspirations for her stories...

The Northampton Chronicle for September 23rd 1905 carried the following letter:

Anomaly in Natural History

Sir, Your readers may be interested in the following anomaly in natural history:-

Mrs. Jackson (wife of Mr Smyth's gamekeeper) put a lame chicken into the basket of her cat with one kitten to nurse.

The cat took kindly to her charge, keeps it warm under her, treats it exactly as she does her kitten, licking it thoroughly clean, etc, and if the chick is taken out of the basket carries it back in her mouth. The chick is doing well and will soon be independent of its strange foster mother. J.T.Bartlet.

Next we have a cross-over with another well known genre (if that is the right term) of fortan phenomena:

The Daily Telegraph for November 28th 1986 carried a story entitled:

'Cat nap goes with a bang.'

"Firemen were called to a cat which was enveloped in blue flame and blown several feet in the air while sitting in its favourite chair while sitting in its favourite chair in Anmer Lodge old people's home in Stanmore, west London....

Apart from a psychic phenomenon, the only explanation we can think of is that it was caused by a build-up of static on the cat's fur" said Stanmore fire station officer Harry Bachelor.

Finally, a story appeared in The Oxford Mail of July 9th 1997 about a barking cat!

The cat, Noodles, of Radley near Oxford barked for its breakfast and on investigation it was found that the cat was brought up in a house with dogs in it. " A spokesman for Oxford Animal Sanctuary said:

" This does seem most unusual. "

We at the CFZ would tend to agree !

Cryptoherps in Indiana

by

Brad La Grange

I found these references to cryptozoological herps on a website on Knox County (Indiana) folklore. I have paraphrased them for the benefit of this article.

Alligator in Vincennes?

From the Indianapolis Star, Dec, 1946 p9 c5

According to the story, Ben Melvin and James Auder killed an alligator in Mariah creek. Supposedly the gator came south from Petersburg where one had been released in 1900.

"Big Jim"- Vincennes Commercial, 1908

Giant Rattlesnake in Vincennes area

Starting in 1881, a large rattle snake(12ft long) was reported up and down the Little Wabash. It was reported to have killed a logger, but that is suspect. It returned in 1908(or a descendant?) and was spotted by Sheriff Lee Staley. But Jim did meet his Waterloo when O.H Sullivan shot 'Jim' in Sullivan County whilst 'he' was cavorting in the hog pen. Jim got killed and measured in at 12ft, 5in/ 29 rattles. The skin was mounted but no word as to its location. (Note, a 6ft Timber rattler was mounted in a local bar in Perry County, Indiana until the bar burnt in the 19 60's)

EDITOR'S NOTE: writing on The Internet , Richard day and Paul Ingram note:

"A century ago stories of a giant rattlesnake were striking fear in the hearts of the area. Big Jim was reported as the terror of the Wabash, a monster rattler 10 feet long (or longer in some estimates). He made his home at Rattlesnake Bluff on the Little Wabash, 12 miles north of Carmi, Ill., although he reportedly ranged up and down the Wabash Valley.

The snake was first noticed in the spring of 1881 when loggers went to log the Skillet Fork bottoms.

According to the story of this confrontation, told with grand detail in 1908 by the Vincennes Commercial, the loggers were driven to shelter in rain to the bluff overhanging the river. A black man in the crew was sent for firewood, but he came back, terrified and empty-handed. The logger, who was named Big Jim, reported seeing a great demon prowling the bluff. Capt. Ed Ballard, in charge of the crew, angrily ordered the man back to his task.

Minutes later a scream was heard from the top of the bluff and Jim hurtled down the bluff and into the flooded river. He was never seen again, though an extensive search was made of the river the next day.

More men ascended the bluff but heard what they said sounded like a thousand rattles. Rain or not, the survivors boated to the Illinois bank of the Wabash in record time.

The Commercial, looking back, said the logging business in the area was set back by stories of the giant snake. Also, other excursions of this of this monster rattler, now called Big Jim in honour of his victim,

were reported in succeeding years. Near the bluff one farmer looked into his chicken yard and saw his best Plymouth Rock rooster staring eyeball to eyeball with a giant snake. He emptied a shotgun at the snake, and it disappeared. He said his rooster was never the same again."

Indiana Sea Serpent

This one easily smells of hoax. According to the story, a sixty foot snake with a dogs head lived in Horseshoe pond near Vincennes, as reported in the Vincennes Commercial, April 22, 1892. It was black, and of course, immune to bullets. It showed up again in the south of the state according to the June 17th issue of the Vincennes Commercial, in Big Swan pond, but now with white and black, in addition to red and yellow mottled sides (sounds like the backdrop of a Jefferson Airplane concert). Of course only men of untouchable reproach and great veracity saw this creature.

I'm not convinced of any of the creatures, and I down right don't believe the last one, but, lets not forget the legendary Oscar - the giant snapping turtle of Churbusco, Indiana.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When I lived in Canada during the late 1970's it was strongly believed amongst the local young people that a giant (although I prefer to use the word 'outsized' snapping turtle lived in a local swamp.

Together with some intrepid companions and a case of undrinkable local lager (I was only about nineteen at the time) I went in search of this colossal chelonian, but although we saw various turtles of different species (including Common Snappers) we saw nothing even approaching the size of this legendary beast whose name, if I remember correctly was "Big Frank".



Cartoon (Punch 26.5.1909) courtesy Richard Multhead

Werewolves of London Again

by Gypsy Sherred

In 1947, Victor Brauner invoked a chance encounter between a wolf and a coffee table. Thirty years later, Warren Zevon recorded *Werewolves Of London*. Twenty years later, our gang of surrealmchemical detectives continue to encounter lycanthropes in all sorts of provoking magical circumstances.

Brauner's *Wolf Table* (an occasional table in every sense) indicates that lycanthropy is a Genuinely Surreal condition. Surrealism is littered with metamorphoses, entanglements of humans, animals, birds, objects. Lautreamont predicted all this in *Les Chants Du Maldoror*, as his hero warps into a louse, a leech, an octopus, a fly, a rhinoceros, a shark, a spider, a swordfish, a hyena, a mastiff, a black swan and a cricket. Magritte's women turned into fish and weretiger-striped blocks of wood. He was influenced by photographs of carnival freaks in *Variete*, including that of Lionel The Man Dog. Max Ernst conjured up bird headed entities, including rooster-men in *Une Semaine Du Bonte* - and Victor Brauner produced a cock with a wolf's head in *The Philosopher's Stone*.

That cock is a useful clue in this case of werewolves. Howlin' Wolf sang about a Little Red Rooster. August Derleth sent his sleuth Solar Pons into Hotspur territory on the trail of The Tottenham Werewolf. Those Spurs have a rooster as a club symbol. Tod Browning based his film *Freaks* (with its chicken-woman) on a story called *Spurs*, by Tod Robbins. Lionel The Man Dog springs to mind in this connection. Browning also directed *Dracula* - "Ah, the children of the night, what sweet music they make!". The Count can take the form of a wolf, amongst other things.

Cocks, like werewolves, have interesting Freudian connotations. The Freudian might argue that the wolfman, who tries to kill that which he loves the most, is a symbol of unconscious, bestial desires. The early Surrealists were fond of Freud. They would certainly approve of the unconscious erupting into the waking world in a dramatic, lycanthropic fashion.

In 1909, Freud treated a Russian whose case is now referred to as that of 'The Wolf Man.' Freud met Holmes in *The Seven Percent Solution*. Holmes met a devilish canine beastie in *The Hound Of The Baskervilles*. Conan Doyle was influenced by Baring-Gould's books on Dartmoor. The Reverend also wrote *The Book Of Werewolves*, in which The Werewolves Of London can be found.

Warren's song is the key. Like Brauner and Count Dracula, Zevon is of Eastern European extraction. They know all about wolf packs in that part of the world. Another Warren, Warren William, appeared in *The Wolf Man* and *The Lone Wolf* series of movies, incidentally. Anagrammatically, Warren gives us Warner, and Warner Oland played Dr. Yogami in the 1935 film *The Werewolf Of London*. He's most famous for playing Charlie Chan. Zevon's Werewolf prowls through Soho with a Chinese menu in his hand.

"He's the hairy handed gent, who ran amok in Kent." Hairy Hands have also manifested, mysteriously, on Dartmoor, startling motorists on the B3212 outside of Postbridge. Kent is

derived from a Celtic word for 'head'. It was inevitable that those totemic Sea Heads should be involved. *Werewolves Of London* inspires and haunts the Sea Heads Artists Gang. Lycanthropes, like Sea Heads, have "a special loony arrangement with the moon" (Sea Head Lines, Tony Shiels, 1996).

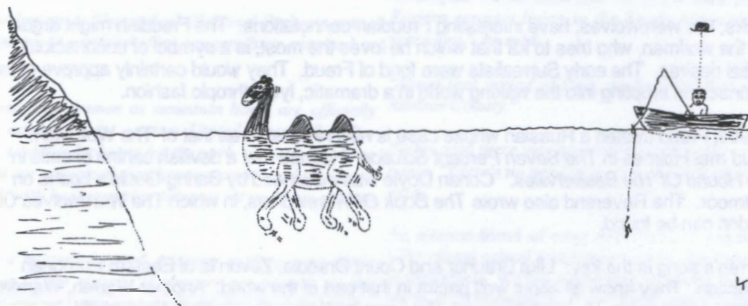
Warren Zevon recorded singles for the White Whale label. "When Moby Dick awoke one morning from unsettling dreams, he found himself changed in his bed of kelp into a monstrous Ahab." This is the opening line of Harlan Ellison's werewolf story *Adrift Just Off The Islets Of Langerhans*. White Whales and White Wolves. The nautical Captain Marryat wrote about *The White Wolf Of The Harz Mountains* in 1839. Henry Hull played the unfortunate lycanthrope in *The Werewolf Of London*. He was also in Alfred Hitchcock's ocean going picture *Lifeboat*. Hull is a word loaded with maritime significance. Hull itself was a whaling port in the bad old days, and is home to a modern day shanty festival.

Sea Wolves of London. Jack London wrote *The Sea Wolf*. The film starred a lupine Ida Lupino, with music by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, famous for his pirate movie scores. Gregory Peck (a roosterish surname) starred in *The Sea Wolves*. He also played Ahab in the Huston version of *Moby Dick*, of course. Patrick MacNee was another one of *The Sea Wolves*. He also turned up in *The Howling*, written by John Sayles (Sails?). Our wolf packs seem determined to run to the sea.

Right at the end of *Werewolves Of London*, just after the line about a werewolf sipping a pina colada, Warren says something off mic. To S.H.A.G.sters at least, this sounds very like "Huh, Strawboys!" "A Sea Head could meet a Strawboy at Oiche Shamna - Hallowe'en" says Tony Shiels. I've probably mentioned this before.

Ah - OOOOO!

IT IS A SURE SIGN OF SPRING WHEN THE CAMELS START COMING THROUGH THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS ON THEIR ANNUAL MIGRATION.



Cartoon by Aberdeen's Mr Entertainment

What's Afoot?

By
Richard Freeman

About three years ago, Richard Freeman was on holiday in Cornwall when, more by chance than by judgement he drove into the Jamaica Inn complex on Bodmin Moor. At Potter's Museum of Curiosities he purchased a copy of this magazine and after a few months he started to write for us sporadically. Three years later he is a fully fledged member of the Animals & Men posse, and come the summer he will be living with us here at Crypto Mansions. In this, the first of a new series he cuts a swathe through the world of forteana and presents the nearest thing that readers of Animals & Men will ever get to a "What's On" column.....

Some places have a truly awful *genus loci*. Bradford is a case in point. A dire grey leaden pall hangs over the place. I can't imagine it being the slightest bit cheery on a summer's day, let alone a wet weekend in November.

In short, it takes a lot to persuade me to visit Bradford; but visit it I did on November 22nd, the opening day of "The Unexplained", a new display at the National Museum of Photography.

The originally-named exhibition is a collection of Fortean photographs and films. Upon entering, one is met with a slowly-changing series of photographs and films projected onto the wall, interspersed with phrases and quotations from witnesses. Sadly, much as predicted, UFOs get the lion's share.

UFOs are also the first subject tackled as you move on. There are pictures of them, with the date and location, but many are ones that were exposed as hoaxes long ago: there is no mention of this. Several films were also shown on video. To observe some latex dummies being sliced up in someone's converted garage

(doubling as Roswell), one is forced to peer through what looks like a fridge door with slits in!

Earth Mysteries fare worse (ETs being more interesting to the sheep-like masses). There is a small collection of crop circle photos and shots of earth lights, but there is no suggestion that earth lights could be an explanation of some UFOs.

A small "show" was run live. This features teenage "actors" recreating several "abduction" scenes. The standard of acting would shame a "teatowels on heads" style infant nativity play. Sadly, we would see more of this troupe.

Home territory next: the cryptozoology display. It had nothing I had not seen before, but was competently done. British big cats (alive and dead), Thylacines, lake and sea monsters, and Bigfoot were all featured. The Dinsdale Nessie film and Patteson's Bigfoot were both shown. Oddly, Bigfoot was given a lot of coverage, while the yeti and other mystery apes were ignored, as were odder entities like Mothman, Owlman and the Chupacabra.

Freak weather was next, with British whirlwinds, waterspouts, ice falls and frog/fish rain. Once again, hoax photos featured, such as the "jerked street lamp" ball lightning.

The Turin Shroud is recreated as a life-size replica, having a small section to itself.

Finally, the main exhibition was rounded off by a recreation of the 1969 moon landings by the talentless group from earlier on. This features an American family watching the event live, whilst a narrator suggests that the moon shots were all hoaxed. The American accents were of a standard which would have made John Keel or Loren Colman dish out a punch or two, had they been present.

In an annexe to the main exhibition is an information room. This is quite good, except for the intelligence-insulting explanations of words like "crypto" in big letters on one of the walls. Here are a collection of folders and books containing information on various Fortean subjects. Crypto-stuff includes Bigfoot, alien

big cats, and lake monsters. The folders are mainly reprints from *F.T.* and *Fate*. *Animals & Men* gets a mention as "an excellent magazine!"

Next to the folders and books is a computer that runs a Fortean program, allowing visitors to choose various subjects. Our own dear editor features in a monologue of his thoughts on mystery animals (with an unfortunate reference to Migo as a pre-zeuglodont whale): apart from that *faux-pas*, this is probably the best thing in the exhibition.

I left feeling that it could have been a lot better. Some life-size models would not have gone amiss, as would some experts to answer questions and do talks.

The exhibition runs until April 19. However, this is a two-part exhibition: the second part runs from April 25 to July 5 1998 at Cartwright Hall - in Bradford (unfortunately!).

The Tristate Bigfoot Conference

by

Chad Arment

(reprinted from *CZOneList* with the kind permission of the author)

Just got back from this, sponsored by Don Keating in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

My interests in BF are limited to sightings in Ohio and in those areas I've lived (like Harford County, Maryland, where over 100 reports were chronicled by Bob Chance and Mark Opsasnick), but it's basically the only large cryptid in Ohio, so I do maintain some interest in it.

To briefly note: Speakers were Dr. John Bindernagel, Daniel Perez, and Ray Crowe. Bindernagel did an overview of his new book "North American's Great Ape: the Sasquatch" (Beachcomber Books, B.C., Canada: 1998) - it's basic biological data on the animal, taken from some basic assumptions on primate biology and from sighting reports. Chapters include topics: Locomotion and gait, tracks, foraging, elements of ape displays, etc. Not a bad book, somewhat basic, I'd have like to have seen more ecological data, but can't have everything. My glance through the book has been somewhat cursory for now - I didn't notice many newer reports, but the book isn't really meant to bring new sightings to light, merely to examine older reports from the viewpoint of a wildlife biologist.

Ray Crowe argued that BF is *Homo erectus*, primarily on the grounds that female BF sightings show "human-like" breasts. I disagree, but what the heck. Daniel Perez spoke on two topics - first on his investigation of a Union County, Ohio report 18 years ago (when he first began to recognize that Ohio has quite a bit of "wide open areas") and secondly on his attempt to figure out at what speed the Patterson film was taken.

Perez has acquired a similar camera to the one used for that footage and believes that the film was taken at 16 frames/sec as opposed to the 24 frames/sec that you usually see on television specials (which he contends would provide better evidence for the film's credibility). He also stated that he didn't believe that BF was either man or ape, but rather "it is what it is."

Personally, I think he's cutting hairs a little fine, but again, no big deal.

Also, I spoke briefly with Mark Francis who said that he is working on a website that will include his back issues of the North American Bigfoot Information Network newsletter. (Long title, but easily the most interesting of the BF newsletters I've ever come across.)

**As part of this new section we
welcome reviews of conferences,
exhibitions etc....**

Giant Lizards in the English Countryside?

by Darren Naish

Like any good cryptozoologist, I have numerous cases on file where people have reported seeing an unusual creature crossing the road, typically at night and typically seen briefly, illuminated in the headlights. The list of such sightings, especially in a global context, is very long and I have given up trying to compile a brief one. Of local interest to me are numerous reports of Hampshire's A35 of a black A.B.C seen in the small hours.

However, all of this provides me with an incentive to keep my eyes firmly glued to the road whilst driving at night. Thus far I've seen deer, owls, rabbits by the truckload, weasels, cats (not big ones ... yet) and giant lizards.

Oh really?

On Thursday 29th May 1997 I was involved in a car crash: essentially the car I was travelling in met a large wall at high speed. The wall came off OK and fortunately so did everyone else involved. Before you ask, I wasn't driving. But it was on the way back in the R.A.C van, that my sighting occurred. Though the prospect of pushing a severely traumatised mini into a small, inner city garage at 2 a.m. now put a slight downer on an otherwise fun-filled evening. I was nonetheless playing at the 'watch the road' game.



"Well I never - a Giant Lizard!"



Direction of travel

Sightings that have not been reported to the local press include Mr. E.R. Abbott's of early 1982, and the two related to me by Carol Renouf - both made by her husband in October 1991 and on the Christmas Eve of the same year. Like about 98% of A.B.C sightings the world over, these are all spectacularly uninteresting unless you happened to be there at the time: *"I saw a large black cat..."* And? *"Well that's it!"*.

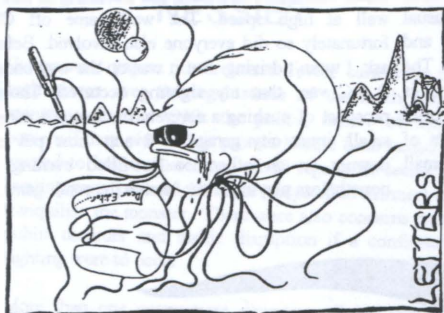
Just in front, about 10m away, a great big lizard jolted out of a hedge on the right and sort of jerked across to the left. Of a uniform dark colour, it was about 1.5m long with a bulky, dragging tail and elongate, heavy neck. The sighting lasted all of three seconds - the only comment being mine: *"What's that???"*

Well, as interesting as giant lizards.....



"Hang on a minute - it looks just like a fox pulling a dead rabbit to me..."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Editor and his band of merry men welcome an exchange of correspondence on any subject of interest to readers of this magazine. We reserve the right to edit letters and would like to stress that opinions voiced are those of the individual correspondent rather than being necessarily those of the editorial team or the Centre for Fortean Zoology. Every attempt is made not to infringe anyone's moral rights or copyright, and we apologise if we have unwittingly done so.

I thought I saw a Puddy Tat...

Hello Jon,

Just to let you know I saw a strange cat a few weeks ago. It was in Weston Lane, near where I live, at the Weston Road end. At this point, the lane runs between two steep earth banks, covered with vegetation; the cat was going into the bushes, prior to climbing up the slope. It was all black, larger than the usual house cat, and had a long bony body, long legs, a small head and a

very long tail. I saw the whole of the cat, but did not get near to it, as by the time I got to the spot, it had disappeared. As far as I know, no one else has seen it, but this area is covered with houses, so it might be somebody's pet. I am keeping a lookout in case I see it again, I frequently pass the spot where I saw it.

Yours, Noela MacKenzie (Noela@dial.pipex.com)

Editorial Comment: In the last issue we solicited obscene but printable limericks about Tom Anderson. Dr Gail-Nina Anderson (no relation but an expert on vampires) writes:

Dear Jon,

OK, the first problem is that, although it looks reasonable enough on the page, the internal rhythm of the line "There was a young man from Aberdeen" has bugged up any chance of getting your limerick to scan properly even before you've written it. Could Tom not be gently persuaded to move elsewhere, for the sake of poetic harmony?....

Graham's Comment: Perhaps Uppingham (near Leicester)? Anyway, Gail-Nina fuelled herself up on Earl Grey tea and two fried egg sandwiches and penned the following sequence of limericks:

*That Tom Anderson can't resist verse
Is a strange Aberdonian curse.
He'll libel his friends
For unspeakable ends
In a manner that's crypto-perverse.*

*In an area North of the Border
The zoology's all out of order.
There's a curious hominid
Known as the Tominid
Or the Lesser Fanged Ranting Marauder.*

*Tom's idea of a roaring good time
Involves no lubrication or slime,
Leather, creams, whips or silk,
Or ought of that ilk -*

He'll just stuff you and mount you in rhyme.

Darren Nemeth

Graham's Interjection: Sadly, the next one isn't printable, although we may consider 'posting' it on one of the less salubrious news groups on the Internet...! The one after that isn't obscene but is very good anyway:

*With respect for humanity minimal,
Tom's poetry verged on the criminal.
His rhyming was hectic
His puns apoplectic,
And his scansion entirely subliminal.*

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Thanks, Gail-Nina - and a free subscription to "Animals & Men" is yours!

ICE ICE BABY

EDITOR'S BLURB: As any regular reader will no doubt have become aware the CFZ Wrecking Crew have become enamoured of The Internet. What used to be the old HELP column in *Animals & Men* has become a regular feature of our e-mail and occasionally it throws up a gem like this one....

Mr. Downes,

I have a question about an exhibit that I have been wondering about since I saw it as a child. The travelling exhibit was called, as I remember, "The Minnesota Ice Man," a supposed prehistoric man frozen in ice. I saw it at the Fashion Square Mall in Saginaw, Michigan in the mid 1970s at a time when there were many reports of Bigfoot sightings in the USA. Was this real? With new technology available today has this frozen "man" been proven to be a fake or genuine? I am sure that the ice block could have been CAT scanned to see if the contents were human or not.

have a great New Year,

EDITOR'S BLURB: as one can no doubt see from the final words of Darren's letter it arrived at what is euphemistically called "The Festive Season" whilst Graham, Richard F and yours truly were drinking a lot and playing interminable games of "Find The Fish" (a completely pointless game akin to "20 Questions" involving fish which was invented by Senor Freeman. In amongst this pointless merriment Richard and I wrote back to Darren:

Dear Darren,

The ice man you saw in the seventies was almost certainly a fake. The supposedly genuine beast was removed from public view in the late sixties when its anonymous owner took it off show. Frank Hanson, the show man who displayed it for the owner, said that in the early days a real specimen was shown. Zoologist Ivan T Sanderson and cryptozoologist Bernard Heuvelmans examined it closely and were convinced it was real. Heuvelmans knocked over a lamp onto the ice block causing it to crack. Both scientists smelt rotting flesh.

The major rumour surrounding the iceman's genesis is that it was shot by a soldier in Vietnam, then smuggled back to the U.S. in a body bag. Later, when the FBI began to show an interest, the owner removed his odd charge. Hanson insists the true beast is still on ice somewhere in California. After this a dummy was substituted for several years. Sanderson and Heuvelmans believed it was a primitive human unlike the yeti that seems to be a colossal ape. There are many tales of such wildmen in Indo-China. If you took any photographs of the creature or have any pix or flyers (handbills) of the sideshow we'd be very interested in seeing them.

Best wishes,

Richard Freeman

A few hours later we received a reply which has historical significance for us at least

because it gives us the first account we have ever read from someone who actually saw the exhibit when Hanson et al were still claiming that the corpse was a legitimately cryptozoological exhibit.....

Hi,

Wow, thanks a lot for the information! I wonder the "original" ice man is at now. As far as I remember it was at the Fashion Square Mall in the mid 1970s and was displayed in a casket type refrigerator. Every one paid, I think, 50 cents to \$1 to look at it and they could take a long of a look as they pleased for their money. I remember staring at for a long time and distinctly remember seeing a remarkably human leg and hand. Other parts of the body were conveniently concealed, like the face and torso, by ice air bubbles. But like I said, this was extremely life like. One of the promoters told me that it was real and the only way human flesh could be duplicated like that was with a wax dummy but he added that wax would crack if it were kept at such a low temperature. However, I think I remember that the thermometer in the "Casket" did not read such a low temperature as was stated in the literature the ice man had to be kept in. There was a note beside he thermometer saying it was not working, or something like that.

I remember a display at the ice man exhibit that had literature. This included copies of the covers or several books on the subject. Can you tell me what books that were published on the ice man? I would really like to read more about it.

Darren Nemeth

the truth is....

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Mike Nicholson, I am a psychology undergraduate at Bolton Institute and am currently conducting my final year research project, which constitutes approximately 20% of my overall BSc (Honours) degree.

I am researching the area of paranormal belief and its relationship to both critical thinking and reasoning skills. The basis of my study is that individuals who have high levels of interest and involvement in such phenomena may provide a more accurate picture of the cognitive characteristics of "paranormal believers" than that obtained from participants in previous studies, namely those who were identified as believers via a questionnaire relating to paranormal beliefs. My hypothesis is that individuals who devote a higher proportion of their attention and time to the study of such phenomena will be at least as efficient in their critical thinking and reasoning as non-believers, contrary to what has been suggested by some authors who have previously worked in this area of research.

I was therefore wondering whether it would be possible for your group to help me in my research by allowing me to send you a small selection of brief questionnaires (3 in total). All responses would remain completely confidential, with all participants and groups remaining anonymous. Participants will be able to request information on the progress of the study and will be free to withdraw from the project at any point. The research project will be fully supervised by an academic lecturer at the Institute and upon completion I would be more than happy to forward your group a complete copy of the project for your own perusal. If you would like to help me in my project, or would like further information concerning any aspect of the study, please E-Mail me at the following address:

MEN1CSS@BOLTON.AC.UK

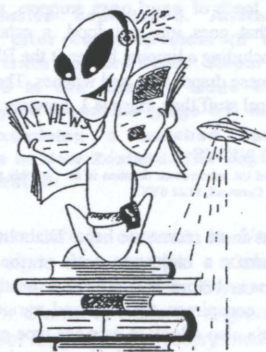
Please leave a postal address if you do wish to take part and I will send you the questionnaire material, along with pre-paid return envelopes. Also, should you know of any other groups/societies that you feel would be interested in helping me with my research, I would be grateful if you could forward a contact address to me.

Thank you in anticipation for your help.

Your sincerely

Mike Nicholson

REVIEWS SECTION



Web Sites

The CFZ web site can be found at
<http://www.eclipse.co.uk/cfz>

We update regularly and at the moment have something in the line of forty pages for your online delectation. There are also links to other sites and, as we do with magazines, we welcome exchanges of magazines and the cross-linking of web sites with like-minded (ish) organisations.

The information below is for guidance only: websites may change or close without our knowing!

Out of the Cauldron - witches & pagans festivals and info, including the forthcoming Wiscraft Festival in Yorkshirc, is at <http://www.pagan.force9.co.uk>

Brian Goodwin's excellent site at <http://freespace.virgin.net/brian.goodwin/index.htm> includes big cats, serpents, dragons, Nessie, and news from Fortean Cumbria.

The English version of **Michel Raynal's** Virtual Institute of Cryptozoology service at <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/cryptozoo/welcome.htm> is now being developed - with text and pics

The news section on the **Earthly Delights** site at <http://www.planet13.co.uk/earthly/EarthlyDelights.htm> looks at Bodmin Moor: its terrestrial zodiac, big cats and celtic stones.

Ben Roesch's "Cryptozoology On The Internet" list of crypto sites is at <http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bz050/HomePage.czlinks.html>

And his home page is at
<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bz050/>

Magazines

We welcome an exchange of publications with other magazines who either cover the same broad range of subjects that interest us and our readers or else who make us laugh...

MAINLY ABOUT ANIMALS

A5 32pp Quarterly. Subscrip: £5 per year. C. Keeling, 13 Pound Place, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 8HH

Clinton Keeling is editor of this zoological-based magazine, and writes in his own inimitable and sometimes ascerbic style - see pp 24-25 of this issue of *Animals & Men*... Issue 36 (Jan 98) includes part 2 of "Big Bad Eagles" by Darren Naish, and pieces on elephant trekking, the Saiga antelope, goldfish fungus, how we can classify Wolverines, and news from various zoological gardens. The magazine is rounded off by Pamela Keeling's beautifully written "Country Corner", with its horticultural and ecological leanings - and its news of their new kitten, Pinkerton!

ANIMALS & MEN # 16

REVIEWS

MAGONIA

£1.25 John Rimmer, 5 James Tee, Mortlake Churchyard, London SW14 8HB
<http://www.magonia.demon.co.uk>

Magonia's been running for nearly 30 years now, and is still seeking to "interpret contemporary vision and belief", mainly in the UFO/Forcean areas. Issue 62 examines the UFO/abduction area, looking at the psychology, sociology and trends in testimony behind the phenomenon; and also has the usual no-holds-barred book reviews. For instance, on Nick Redfern's *Covert Agenda*: "If Redfern had thrown out all the rubbish ... the publishers would not have been interested. They know that there a lot of nutters out there."

COVER UP

STIPR (Scottish Unexplained Phenomena Research) A4 12pp
£1.25 David Colman, 49 Limefield Cres., Bathgate, WL, Scotland EH48 1RF

In issue 10 (Mar 98) the internecine wrangling amongst Scottish UFOlogists is still going strong - presumably indicative of a vibrant and thriving 'scene'. Anyway, it's better than the deathly hush of indifference., innit? That aside, there's an interesting editorial on how litigation-obsessed American Interests want legal control over the names McDonald and Nessie; Scottish UFO sightings; and pieces on possible cover-ups in the Vatican and the UK nuclear industry (the former being about some angel or other, whose message is supposedly shut away in a vault! (I think that more likely reasons for general Vatican secrecy are (a) to disguise the extent of their co-operation with Nazi murderers, and (b) to conceal historical evidence that the Pope isn't infallible and that the authority of their church is, like most others, built on an edifice of fear, ignorance and kow-towing to the Establishment...)

ANIMAL NEWS

A5 24pp NAPAK quarterly. (Inquiries to Elaine Storey, 57 Marlboro Ave, Goole, East Yorks, DN14 6JB)

NAPAK was formed in '86 as a voice against increasing legislation facing animal keepers and to promote responsible care of animals. In the Jan-Mar issue, there's letters (help sought and given), an article on Dobermans (a breed of dog that's had a very bad press in the past) and info ranging from snakes to lemmings (non-suicidal ones) to terrapins (turtles). The front

cover deserves a mention for its minimalist design - just a circle in a square, and the title and date in small font near the bottom.

MYSTERY MAGAZINE

£2. Bimonthly. A4 38pp M/M. 48a Bridge Street, Killamarsh, Derbys, S21 8AJ

The "equivalent of a local *Forcean Times*", issue 2 has UFO reports, loads of weird news snippets, a look at the garbage that goes into pet food, a catalogue of ghosts - 64, including a limping butler at the BBC, and pieces on Chinese dragonlore, and witches. There's less cryptozoological stuff than in issue 1, however.

NETWORK NEWS

A5 24pp. Suggested UK subscription donation is £5. Earthly Delights, PO Box 2, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0YY.

Issue 11 is the most recent we have: Diabolical Earth Current. There's a multi-part look at the cult of Princess Diana - before and after her death - with premonitions, conspiracy theories and various after-effects. There's also a look at new-age type graffiti on various ancient structures, including Stonehenge. It seems that the word LIVE daubed on one edifice was not a Liverpool football supporter who ran out of paint!

DEAD OF NIGHT

A4 62pp £2. Lee Walker, 156 Bolton Road East, New Ferry, Merseyside, L62 4RY

Strange news stories, superstitions and conspiracy theories. A consistently brilliant magazine which is highly recommended by all the folk within the Animals & Men shock troops...

EDITOR'S PLUG: My favourite magazine that is currently available within the shambles of weirdness that is broadly known as the forcean marketplace. Here we should like to bid a fond farewell to Uri Geller's Encounters, Enigmas and Sightings magazines which have sadly ceased publication in the last few months. My bank manager will miss you all.....

BOOK REVIEWS

by Graham Inglis or Jonathan Downes
(where noted)

MIAMI "CHUPACABRAS"

by Virgilio Sánchez-Ocejo.
Pharaoh 1997 US\$9.95 PO Box 960771 Miami FL
33296 USA

Chupacabra, the vampiric "goat sucker", has been affecting the Latin American regions of the world for the past few years (if not longer). This 58 pp book is an orderly collection of witness data, photographs and reactions from those concerned, including the authorities. Jonathan and I met Virgilio during our Miami visit in February and he cooperated with enthusiasm when asked to take part in our documentary on *el Chupacabra*. His investigative enthusiasm shows through in this book, too, while acknowledging that much more information needs to be collected before serious analysis can be made. The book includes some of his photographs, including one of a pawprint cast that he took near his own home on the outskirts of Miami. A sober resource for the researcher, rather than a popularisation. GI

THE DOG WHO RESCUES CATS

The True Story of Ginny

by Philip Gonzalez & Leonore Fleischer.
ISBN 0-684-81924-4 Simon & Schuster 1997. £9.99
160pp.

This is one of the most beautiful stories I have read in a long time. Walt Disney has cashed in on the concept of animals with "loveable human traits" often enough

but, when it happens outside Hollywood, this can be rather special.

This is the story of a New York labourer, Philip Gonzales, who, after several bereavements and then suffering serious injury in an industrial accident, adopts - or rather, is adopted by - a small mixed-breed and ill-treated dog, that he calls Ginny. She soon becomes a faithful friend, restimulating his interest in life. Then her liking for cats soon becomes evident, and a pattern starts emerging: her main concern is for animals (and humans) in trouble of some sort. She befriends starving stray cats on wasteground and harasses Philip into going back to them. He soon realises that she wants him to feed them.

Ginny's "radar of the heart", as Philip terms it, leads her to select deaf cats and cats with injuries of various sorts, sometimes in potentially dangerous situations. Philip has had as many as 15 cats in their home at one time, and the dog plays mother to them all.

Compassion in New York can be hard to come by, sometimes. This dog's behaviour and instincts (or efficient use of her senses) make a very remarkable story. GI

McX

Amazing True Stories From Scotland's X-Files

Ed: Ron Halliday £6.99 B&W Publishing. ISBN 1-873631-77-4 255pp.

Most of the cases fit in the McYawn "insufficient data" category of unexplained ghosts or UFOs, the most bizarrely cryptozoological item is the mad (allegedly) Earl of Glamis Castle who was supposedly nearly limbless, evil, and the shape of a monstrous hairy egg. Collectors' note: how many points would you get for that? (Glamis and the 'evil egg' were covered in *Goblin Universe* #5). There's also a quick look at the Big Grey Man of Ben MacDui (covered for our *1997 Yearbook* by Dr Karl Shuker and for *Goblin Universe* #5 by Phil Johnston - and we had a picture generated from remote viewing, too.) GI

**THE OWLMAN AND
OTHERS**

by
Jonathan Downes

NEW UPDATED EDITION

240pp with colour cover £12.95

Published by and available from

Domra Publications, 65 Constable Road, Corby,
Northants, NN18 0RT, England.

ISBN 0952441764

For the last 20 years girls and young women visiting
mawnan Old Church in southern Cornwall have
reported sightings of a 4 to 5 foot tall humanoid
creature covered in feathers.

This book examines two decades of evidence of
owlman and related matters - including the activities
of Tony 'Doc' Shiels - and comes about as close to
the truth as anyone ever will.

**Can be ordered through bookshops by
quoting the ISBN number and Publisher.**

**MORGAWR: THE MONSTER OF
FALMOUTH BAY**

by
A. Mawman-Peller

Now with a new introduction by Tony Shiels, this
booklet is available for £1.50 from the CFZ.

**THE CFZ
YEARBOOK 1998**

edited by
Jonathan Downes & Graham Inglis

is finally available...

200pp. £12.50

Published by and available from

CFZ
15 Holne Court, Exwick, Exeter, Devon, EX4 2NA,
England.

Contributors:

Tom: Anderson, Neil Arnold, Richard Freeman,
Mike Grayson, Martin Jenkins, Roy Kerridge, Chris
Moiser, Nick Molloy, Richard Muirhead, Darren
Naish, Michael Playfair, and Enunet J. Sweeney.

Subjects:

Giant crocodiles, cryptozoological films, African
Stories, Nessie - asking the right questions, Nessie -
diary of a hunt, Ichthyosaur evolution, Mammoths
and the Comet, Sea Serpents, Amerindian icons,
Strange Snake stories, an alphabetical guide to
water monsters, the Fortean Fauna of Percy
Fawcett, and The Zambesi River God.

How to Order:

Please see **METHODS OF PAYMENT** on page
47.

ANIMALS & MEN # 16

OUR OWN PUBLICATIONS

ANIMALS & MEN

BACK ISSUES: £2 each

Back issues are available from the editorial address (p2).
Please see "methods of payment" below.

CONTENTS (all issues also contain news pages, reviews and letters):

- 1 Relict Pine Martens, Giant Sloths, Sumatran and Javan Rhinos, Golden Frogs, Frog Falls.
- 2 Mystery bears in Oxford and The Atlas Mountains, Loch Ness reports, Green Lizards, Woodwose, The Tatzelwurm.
- 3 Giant Worm in Eastbourne, Lake Monsters of New Guinea, Giant Lizards in Papua, Mystery Cats, Black Dogs on Dartmoor, Scorpion Mystery.
- 4 Manatees of St Helena, Migo: The Lake Monster of New Britain, The search for the Tasmanian Thylacine.
- 5 Mystery cats, Loch Ness, More on the "Migo Video", Boars and Pumas, The Hairy Hands of Dartmoor.
- 6 The Owlman Special; also the Humped Elephants of Nepal, Mystery Cats, Saline-toothed cats, Mysterious hominids of Africa, The British Nandi Bear?, Bibliography of Cryptozoology books part 1 (by Dr Karl Shuker).
- 7 Mystery Whales, Strangeness in Scotland, On collecting a cryptid, Bodmin Leopard Skull, Shuker's Cryptozoological Bibliography pt 2.
- 8 Green Cats and Dogs, Mystery Whales, Quagga Project, Bibliography of Cryptozoological books (3rd & concluding part), Malayan Man Beast.
- 9 Hong Kong Tiger, Horseman of Lincolnshire, Scottish BDM, Congo Peacock, Mystery Whales.
- 10 Mystery Moth of Madagascar, Bengal Leopard Cats, The Derry, Wild Boars in Kent, a new Irish lake monster, mystery whales and the truth about the Essex Beach Corpses.
- 11 The "Walrus Special", also: Feathered Dinosaurs, Ground Sloth Survival in North America, Mystery Whales, Initial Bipedalism.
- 12 Lions: The Barbary Lion, etc. More Feathered Dinosaurs, Chinese Crabs in the Thames, Mystery Animals of Germany, News from New Zealand.
- 13 Pangolins; also Moby the Sperm Whale, Barking Beast of Bath, Yorkshire ABCs, Molly the Singing Oyster, Leatherback Turtles, Walruses.
- 14 The Dragons of Yorkshire, Irish mystery animals, In Search Of "Gambo", Charlie Fort and the Vampire Sheep Slayer - and Jackals, and the first of Clinton's Cogitations (Clint Keeling looks back on and comments on the previous issue).
- 15 Lake Dakazau "Migo" monster update, The Weird Warbling Whatsit of the Westcountry, The Beast of Llangurig, The Waspman, The Bigfoot "Murders", and three articles on Beavers.

THE GOBLIN UNIVERSE

BACK ISSUES: £2 each

Back issues are available from the editorial address (p2).
Please see "methods of payment" below.

CONTENTS (all issues also contain news pages, letters, and record, magazine and book reviews):

- Issues 1-3 were freebies brought out mainly to publicise the activities of a band called The Amphibians from Outer Space. They also contained dodgy poems about postmen. They are no longer available.
- 4 St Neot: Weirdest Village in the West? Naked witches, hellhounds and Capel's tomb. The Vampire of St Leonards (Exeter). Cattle Mutilation. Psychic Detectives.
 - 5 Crop Circles & Animal Mutilations. Ghosts of Glamis Castle. Communication with UFOs. The "noosphere" and text semantics.
 - 6 Jon and Tina are shown the Rendlesham UFO crash site in Suffolk. Mystery Planets (Karl Shuker). Cannibalism in Scotland. D.I.Y. countries and states.

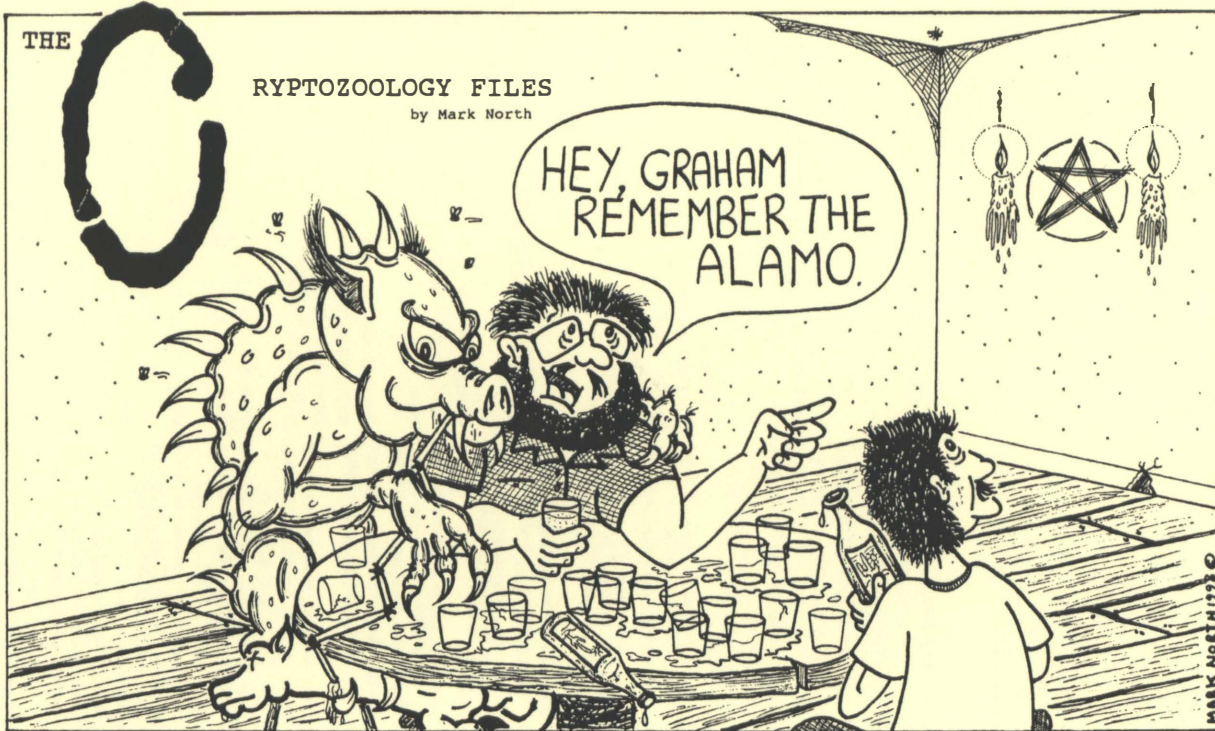
METHODS OF PAYMENT

Postage and packing is extra: please add 25p (£0.30 non-UK) per magazine and 75p (£0.90 non-UK) per book.

Payment can be made in UK cash, by IMO (an international money order), Eurocheque, or by a cheque drawn on a UK bank. Please make all cheques payable to Jonathan Downes.

Send all orders to CFZ, 15 Holne Court, Exwick, Exeter, Devon, EX4 2NA, England.

Britain is one of the few countries of the world where US dollars do not circulate. If making payment in US\$ then please add \$10 to cover the currency exchange fee.



LOCATION: Imperial Hotel Bar, Mexico.

TIME : 02.00 am

THE SEARCH FOR THE CHUPACABRAS CONTINUES
BY QUESTIONING THE WITNESSES.